

**Taste and See
That the
Lord is Good**

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Scriptures used are from the New King James Version unless otherwise indicated.

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Introduction

I wrote this book to give you just a little taste of God's great love for you. I wanted to give you a brief summary of the Bible from Adam to Jesus. The Bible is the most fascinating book you will ever read and study. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew and the New Testament was written in Greek. The Holy Spirit inspired men to write the Bible. It is infallible and you can build your life on the truths that were written just for you. These truths will help you to understand God and His great plan for you. They will give you a great sense of being loved, being accepted and feeling valuable. God's great love and His mighty power are revealed in His Holy Scriptures. His great love will heal the wounds in your heart. His great power will heal any and all sickness in your body. These words written in the Bible are alive and powerful. God's great wisdom is hidden in the Scriptures. You are instructed to search the Scriptures and find the wonderful truths concerning your redemption in Christ Jesus. These truths will make you free. They will make you free from guilt, condemnation, shame, and a sense of unworthiness. They will make you free from sickness, disease, poverty, oppression, and early death. They will fill your heart with joy, peace, and love. The Bible is a picture book revealing Jesus and His love for you. Jesus is hidden in the stories and events of the Old Testament and Gospels. There are many symbolisms in the Bible. Names have meanings. Numbers have meanings. Seasons, events, and laws are pictures of Jesus and His beautiful bride, the church. Water, the wind, and rain all represent spiritual truths. Animals, birds, plants, and insects have meanings. Even the Hebrew alphabet letters, in a word, have meaning. The most amazing thing to me is everything fits and reveals Jesus and His great love for you. I unveiled a few types and shadows of Jesus in this book just to give you a little taste of this wonderful and glorious book we call the Bible. The more you see Jesus in the Scriptures, the more you will see His love for you. The more you see His love for you, the more you will love Him. God is love. He demonstrated His great love by sending you a Savior. The Bible is a book of God's great love for man. Love transforms your heart. It gives you a desire to live for God and empowers you to live a godly and happy life. It empowers you to love others and to demonstrate God's great love for them.

Note: In most cases in this book, the word, "man," is referring to mankind.

Chapter One

Taste and See that the Lord is Good

Genesis 1:26-27 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

God created man in His own likeness and image. I believe His desire was to have more sons to love. His design was to have a family. He created the earth for man to enjoy and rule over. The first man was called Adam. God came every day and visited with him. It was a love relationship literally made from heaven. In order for God to create a man in His own likeness and image, He would have to give the man the freedom to choose, for God's love is freely given. God also knew if He gave man the freedom of choice, Satan would deceive him to sin against Him. But God is love. His love would forgive man and grant him His amazing grace. God is also just and righteous. All who sin must be punished. However, God had a plan to redeem man, that would demonstrate His great love for him and satisfy His justice and righteousness.

God made a beautiful garden (the Garden of Eden) for Adam and his wife Eve to live in. He placed two trees in the garden, the "Tree of Life" and the "Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil" (*Genesis 2:8*). God instructed Adam not to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. He said to Adam, "The day you eat from that tree you will surely die." The "Tree of Life" represents God's Lordship in man's life. By eating from the "Tree of life", mankind chooses to submit to God's Lordship over his life. He chooses to let God choose for him what is good and evil and agrees to submit his life to God's Lordship. "The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil" is man exalting himself to be his own god. Man rejects God's Lordship over his life and makes himself a god. He will choose for himself what is good and what is evil. These two trees can also represent the Old Covenant and the New Covenant.

Adam was the head of the human race and his actions affected the entire race. Just as God had predicted, Satan deceived Adam to eat from the forbidden tree. When Adam disobeyed God and ate from the "Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil" sin entered into the world. Sin entered into Adam and changed his nature. His spirit died to God. His heart became a heart of stone. His nature became selfish, self-righteous, prideful and lustful. Fear ruled his heart. His sense of worth and value was lost. Man was left with a void in his heart to be loved, accepted, and to feel valuable. His sin nature tries to fill this void with the material things of this world, or with having relationships with others, demanding them to make you happy. However, nothing can fill the void. This sin nature is also called your "flesh". Its wisdom is deceived (*Jeremiah 17:9*). It always exalts self. It judges others for their shortcomings and justifies self for its own shortcomings. It always blames others for its failures. Man became a slave to this sin nature.

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned —

Romans 6:17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.

Romans 5:19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

People are not sinners because they sin. They sin because they are born with a sin nature. The wisdom that runs through a man's mind is always going to exalt self. This self-centered wisdom seems right to the man but it is not. He is deceived and does not see clearly. This wisdom in man's

heart and mind has caused all the trouble in his life and in the lives of everyone in the whole world. This wisdom to exalt self is running through everyone's mind. Everyone only cares about themselves. Satan rules over man by tempting his sin nature (*James 1:14*). He controls man through his sin nature. He speaks thoughts in your mind that exalt you (*Ephesians 6:16*) and with that wisdom, he destroys all your relationships. When Adam disobeyed God, not only did sin enter his heart, but he also lost the dominion of the world God had given him. Satan became the god of this world (*2 Corinthians 4:4*) and rules in this world through the sin nature of man.

God began to unfold His plan to reconcile man back to Himself by choosing a man named Abraham. God told Abraham, through his seed all the nations on the entire earth would be blessed (*Genesis 22:18*). He promised him, his descendants would possess the land of Canaan (*Genesis 15:18*). It was a land that flowed with milk and honey (great abundance). It was later called, the "Promised Land". God told Abraham, his descendants would be as many as the sand on the seashore and the stars in heaven (*Genesis 22:17*).

The Bible is an inspired book (*2 Timothy 3:16*). It is a book about God's love for His Son (Jesus) and for His sons (Man). In the Bible, there are thousands of types and shadows (pictures) for us to see, so that we can understand God's great love for us (*Colossians 2:17*). Abraham is the father of the Jewish people (the sand on the seashore) he is also the father of all who believe in Jesus (the stars in heaven). God gave the Law of Moses (the Old Covenant) to the Jewish people. The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil is a picture of the Old Covenant. The laws of Moses reveal God's definition of good and evil. It reveals God's requirement to become righteous before him. His requirement was perfect obedience to all of the laws of Moses. Man's sin nature deceives him and will not allow him to obey God's laws, therefore, all who eat from the Law of Moses will surely die (*Galatians 3:10*). God gave the Gospel of Jesus Christ (the New Covenant) to all who will believe in the finished work of the cross (the Tree of Life). All who eat from the Gospel have eternal life (*John 3:16*).

God made a covenant with Abraham. This covenant God made is a picture of the covenant He made with His Son on the cross.

Genesis 15:6-12,14-18 And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness. 7 Then He said to him, "I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it." 8 And he said, "Lord God, how shall I know that I will inherit it?" 9 So He said to him, "Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." 10 Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. 11 And when the vultures came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. 12 Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him. 17 And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces. 18 On the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates

God told Abraham to take these animals, kill them, cut them in half and lay the halves out to create a path between them. Two flaming torches walk between the halves. That day God made a covenant with Abraham and swore to give to his descendants the Land of Canaan. This is called the "Abrahamic Covenant". It is a picture of Jesus on the cross, and the covenant God made with Him, and all who will believe in Jesus. All Old Testament animal sacrifices are a picture of Jesus on the cross, for Jesus is the Perfect sacrificial Lamb of God (*John 1:29*). God is described as a consuming fire (*Hebrew 12:29*). Two torches walked through those slain animals. This is a picture of the cross. At the cross, God the Father, swore to God the Son, all who will believe the gospel, will be considered righteous and will inherit the Promised Land. The Promised Land is only an Old Testament picture of the rest God has promised to all who will believe in His Son Jesus Christ (*Hebrews 3:18*). Therefore, at the cross, God will freely give to all who will believe in Jesus a free gift of righteousness (*Romans 5:17*) and an inheritance of His abundant rest (*Hebrews 4:9-10*). After this, God told Abraham to circumcise himself, his son Ishmael, and all his servants. He said, the sign of the covenant is circumcision (*Genesis 17:10*).

In order to be in the covenant, you had to be circumcised. The only requirement to be in the Abrahamic Covenant was to be circumcised. All babies were circumcised on the eighth day. Under the New Covenant, all who believe the gospel, are circumcised in their hearts (*Colossians 2:11*). The sin nature is cut off of your heart. You get a new heart of flesh (one that is married to Christ). The eighth day is a picture of a new beginning. All those who are in Christ Jesus are new creatures, old things have passed away and all things become new (*2 Corinthians 5:17*). The only requirement to be in the New Covenant is to believe the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Abraham had two wives, Sarah and Hager. This is another picture of the Old Covenant and the New Covenant (*Galatians 4:23-24*). Abraham was promised a child in his old age. Twelve years after God made the promise to Abraham; Sarah decided, Abraham could take her servant girl as a wife and have a baby through her. Abraham agreed and Ishmael was born. This is a picture of the Old Covenant. It is a picture of man's wisdom, man's works, and man's futile efforts to obey God and be righteous before Him in his own strength. Twelve years later, when Abraham was impotent, and Sarah was past her childbearing age (she was also barren), God told Abraham, Sarah would have a child within one year. They both believed God, and He supernaturally renewed their youth to them. A year later, Isaac (the promised son) was born. Sarah is a picture of the New Covenant of Grace. Their faith in God to give them a promised son was counted as righteousness (*Romans 4:22*). The Old Covenant was all about man's wisdom and efforts to be righteous before God by his own good deeds. The New Covenant is all about God's great love for man, by providing for him a "Promised Son," who would save them from their sins and reconcile them to God.

There are many more beautiful pictures of our Father's great love for us in the story of Abraham. Let me share with you just one more.

Genesis 22:1-14 Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 2 Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." 3 So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. 4 Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. 5 And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you." 6 So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. 7 But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" 8 And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together. 9 Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. 10 And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. 11 But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." 12 And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." 13 Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 And Abraham called the name of the place, The-Lord-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

This is a beautiful picture of the Father's great love for man. God instructed Abraham to take his son, his only son, to a mountain that He will show him, and offer his son as a sacrifice to God. Abraham had two sons, not just one. God only acknowledges the son born of the Spirit. God also wanted to paint a picture for you to see His great love for you. Abraham put the wood on his son's back to carry up the mountain. This is a picture of Jesus carrying the cross up the mountain. Just as Abraham walked up the mountain with Isaac, God the Holy Spirit, walked with Jesus up the mountain. God showed Abraham mount Calvary. Jesus was crucified on Mount Calvary. Abraham lifted his knife and was going to slay his only son. Right before he plugged the knife into his son an angel of the Lord told him to stop. Then the Lord said to Abraham, now I know you fear God. Then God provided a ram, who was caught in a thicket, as a sacrifice. This is a picture of God the Father, offering the Son He loves, as a sacrifice for sinful

man. In order to pay the debt for sin, so that we can say of our Father, “now I know You love me, because You did not withhold your only begotten Son but offered Him up as a substitute for me. The ram caught in the thicket is another picture of Jesus on the cross. At the cross, God provided Himself a sacrifice. It is at the cross God reveals Himself as Jehovah Jireh, The-Lord-Will-Provide. At the cross, God provided a sacrifice for your sins, so that you can be forever reconciled to God and experience the love of your Heavenly Father.

The Bible is a great storybook of God’s great love for His Son Jesus, and for His created sons. Like I said before, there are thousands of pictures declaring God’s great love for man. God’s truth is hidden in these stories, events, laws, principles, and sayings. The Bible compares God’s wisdom (truth) to gold and silver (*Proverbs 3:13-17*), however, the value of God’s wisdom is far greater than gold or silver and will produce a life of great peace, good health, and abundant prosperity. If you will search for these hidden truths in the Bible, the Holy Spirit will help you find them, and then teach you what this hidden wisdom means to you. Your Father takes great pleasure in you searching for and finding His great wisdom hidden in the Scriptures.

Abraham’s son was Isaac; Isaac’s son was Jacob, whose name God changed to Israel. These are the founding fathers of the Jewish people, as well as all who believe in Jesus. Israel had twelve sons, who became the twelve tribes of Israel. Israel’s eleventh son was Joseph. His brothers were jealous of him and sold him into slavery in Egypt (*Genesis 37:28*). However, God exalted him to become Pharaoh’s (the king of Egypt) second in command. Joseph is a picture of Jesus in this story. He became the savior of the Jews (his family) and the Gentiles (the Egyptians). Just as Jesus became the Savior of the whole world. Jacob’s family ended up moving to Egypt. After Joseph and his brothers died a new Pharaoh took office. God had blessed the Jews so much that the new Pharaoh was afraid they may rise up and take over Egypt (*Exodus 1:8-10*). He decided to enslave the Jews. They remained slaves and endured hard bondage for several hundred years. Even though they were slaves they continued to multiply until Pharaoh decided to kill all the newborn male children. At this time, Moses was born. Moses’ parents hid him for three months. Then they put him in a basket and put him in the river (*Exodus 2:1-10*). It just so happened, the daughter of Pharaoh found him and took him as her own. It also just so happened, Moses’ real mother was hired by the Pharaoh’s daughter to raise the child in Pharaoh’s house. By this time the Israelites had been in Egypt for almost four hundred years. Moses grew up as part of Pharaoh’s family. He was skilled in all the wisdom of Egypt. Through a series of events, he ends up running for his life and leaves Egypt. He ends up as a shepherd married with two children. God remembered His covenant with Abraham. One day, after Moses has been gone for forty years, he comes across a bush that was on fire but not consumed. From the burning bush, God spoke to him and instructed him to return to Egypt and set His people free (*Exodus 3:2*). God told him of His covenant He made with Abraham to give His descendants the Land of Canaan. Reluctantly, Moses agreed to go. Moses asked the Lord, “How will they know you are sending me”. God told Moses to throw down the staff in his hand. Moses obeyed and the staff became a serpent. God told Moses to take it by the tail and it will become a staff again. Then God told Moses to put his hand into his bosom. Moses obeyed and when he took his hand out it was leprous, as white as snow. God told him to put it back in his bosom and take it back out and it will be healed. God told Moses to perform these two signs before the people and they would believe that God is sending him (*Exodus 4:1-8*). God paints us another picture through these two signs. The first sign is a picture of Jesus on the cross (*John 3:14*). When Moses confronted Pharaoh he threw down his staff and it became a serpent. Pharaoh’s magicians threw down their rods and they also became serpents, then Moses’ rod (serpent) swallowed up the serpents Pharaoh’s magicians conjured up (*Exodus 7:12*). The staff is a picture of the cross. The serpent is a picture of sin. Jesus becomes sin, a serpent on a pole. He swallows up the sins of the whole world and redeems man from every lawless deed. The second sign is a picture of the two covenants. Adam ate from the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (the Law of Moses). He tried to have a relationship with God in his own strength and righteousness. It left him leprous (unclean). Moses puts his leprous hand back in his bosom and it comes out clean and healed. At the cross, Jesus takes the sins of the whole world

into His bosom, so that all who believe in Him can be cleansed from their sin, and healed from its judgment, and made forever righteous before our God. If we will share these two signs with the world, they will believe God sent His Son Jesus into this world to save them.

What a beautiful picture of our Savior and His finished work on the cross. I am sharing these pictures of Jesus with you, so that you can understand how the Bible is written. On the surface, there is very little gold and silver, but if you will dig a little the treasure is everywhere just waiting to be found. The treasure of God's great love for you and your redemption in Christ Jesus will transform your life into the image of Christ. Our responsibility is to behold Jesus and His finished work on the cross, and the responsibility of the Holy Spirit living inside of us is to transform our life into the image of Jesus (*2 Corinthians 3:18*). Before you know it, you'll be looking like Jesus.

Moses went to Pharaoh and demanded, he let God's people go. Pharaoh refused, so God brought ten horrible plagues on the people of Egypt. These ten plagues are a picture of God's judgment for sin. They are a picture of the Ten Commandments God gave to Moses. The Ten Commandments are the cornerstone of the Old Covenant. They demand, you obey them completely or be cursed with horrible curses. Since no one can keep the Ten Commandments perfectly everyone is found guilty before God and brought under His judgment. The last of the ten judgments was to kill all the firstborn in the land of Egypt (*Exodus 11:4-5*). God instructed Moses to tell the children of Israel to take a lamb for each of their households. He told them on a certain day to kill the lamb and put the blood of the lamb on the door frames of their houses. He told them to go into their house and roast the lamb and eat it. The day came, and Moses instructed the people to kill the lamb. They obeyed. That night God sent a Destroyer to kill all the first-born in the land. God instructed the Destroyer not to harm anyone who had the blood of the lamb on their door frames (*Exodus 12*). After this event Pharaoh let the people go. They were finally free from their bondage. Moses also instructed the people to ask their Egyptian neighbors for their silver and gold (*Exodus 12:35-36*). They left Egypt wealthy. After the Israelites ate the lamb, all that were sick or feeble were healed and made strong (*Psalms 105:37*). They left Egypt healthy and wealthy. This event is called the Passover. That night the Destroyer passed over the children of Israel and God delivered them from the Egyptians and brought them health and wealth. Jesus is called our Passover Lamb (*1 Corinthians 5:7*). The lamb was a substitute. God placed the sins of Israel on the lamb. The lamb was judged and killed for the sins of Israel. The blood of the lamb was placed on the door frames of the children of Israel's houses. When the Destroyer (God's righteous judgment for sin) saw the blood he knew a death had already taken place. The blood of the lamb testified to the judgment of God, the price for their sins had already been paid for, by the death of the lamb. Therefore, the blood of the lamb justified the Israelites. The lamb had to be without spot or blemish. It is a picture of a perfect lamb that was innocent. An exchange took place; the lamb bore the sins of the people and gave the people his perfection and innocence. At the cross, Jesus became our Passover Lamb who is perfect and completely sinless. At the cross, Jesus became our substitute, our Passover Lamb. God placed on Jesus the sins of the whole world (*1 John 2:2*). Then God judged Jesus on the cross. He died for our sins (*1 Peter 3:18*). His blood is placed on the door frame of our hearts. Jesus' blood testifies to God's judgment, our sins have been paid for in full. Therefore, the judgment for our sins passes over us. Jesus' blood justifies us forever (*Romans 8:33*). God will never judge you for your sins because they have been paid for in full (*Hebrews 8:12*). When you commit a sin, and God's judgment comes to your life, it sees the blood of the Lamb on the door post of your heart and passes over you. At the cross, God made an exchange with us. He took our sin and gave us His perfect innocence and righteousness (*2 Corinthians 5:21*). We can now come before our Father in the righteousness of His Son that has been freely given to us. Just as Pharaoh let the people go, so Satan must let us go when we believe in Jesus (*Colossians 1:13*). We are free from his dominion over our lives. We are also instructed to eat the Passover Lamb. We eat the Lamb by believing the truth, Jesus bore all our sins in His own body. The judgment for our sins broke His body and by His stripes, we are healed. The Curse of the Law is the judgment for sin. Jesus has already borne the judgment for our sins and has already redeemed us from the Curse of the Law (*Galatians 3:13*). Therefore, the great blessing of righteousness, which includes health and wealth belong to all those who have been redeemed by the precious blood of the Lamb.

Most of the stories in the Bible reveal Jesus and His finished work on the cross. I hope you can see this wonderful treasure just waiting to be discovered by you. These truths are truly more precious and far more valuable than all the wealth in the whole world.

Moses took the people to Mount Sinai. It was there, on the Day of Pentecost, God gave them the Ten Commandments and the Laws of Moses (*Exodus 20*). God revealed what tree Adam ate from, the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. The Ten Commandments and the Laws of Moses reveal God's perfect righteousness. With God's perfect law comes the great blessing of righteousness if you can completely obey them. However, it also has horrible curses if you break just one of them (*Deuteronomy 28*). Satan deceived Adam into eating from the tree that bases his relationship with God on his own righteousness and good deeds. God revealed His holy standard for man to live by in order to be in right standing with Him. The children of Israel boast to Moses, "All that God commands we will do" (*Exodus 19:8*). However, within just a few days they built a golden calf and worshiped it (*Exodus 32:8*). God's wrath broke out against them and three thousand died (*Exodus 32:28*). Under the New Covenant, on the Day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was given, three thousand people were saved (*Acts 2:41*). This proves that the letter of the law kills, but the Spirit gives eternal life (*2 Corinthians 3:6*).

Moses went up the mountain and met with God, and God instructed him to build a tabernacle and institute the priesthood and animal sacrifices. God knew man has sin in his heart. He knew man was a sinner by nature. He knew man would not and could not keep the Ten Commandments and the Laws of Moses. In His great mercy toward His chosen people Israel, He instructs Moses to build the tabernacle, institute the priesthood and animal sacrifices. He set this system in place to keep His judgment for sin from coming on His people. The entire system is a type and shadow of Jesus our High Priest and sacrificial Lamb (*Hebrews 9:9*) and His bride the church. Every morning at 9:00 and every evening at 3:00 the priest would sacrifice a lamb. If any Israelite became unclean he would become clean at the morning or evening sacrifice. At the sacrifice, the lamb would bare the sins of the people and be judged and killed for the people's sins. The innocent blood of the lamb would atone for their sin. The innocence and perfection (a picture of righteousness) would be transferred to the people and they would become clean. Jesus was nailed to the cross at 9:00 (*Mark 15:25*) in the morning and He died at 3:00 in the evening (*Matthew 27:46*). He fulfilled the morning and the evening sacrifice. His blood makes a permanent atonement for all who will believe in Him. Once a year, on the Day of Atonement, a bull and a goat would be sacrificed (*Leviticus 23:27*). The blood of the bull and the goat would be sprinkled on the Mercy Seat that was behind the veil in the temple. The sins of the entire nation would fall on the animals and they would die in place of the people. The animals were the people's substitute. Their blood would atone for the nations' sins for one year. Jesus became the bull and goat. His blood was placed on the Mercy Seat in the true tabernacle in heaven. His sacrifice atoned for man's sin forever (*Hebrews 10:10*).

If an individual committed a sin, he was instructed to bring an animal, prescribed by the Law, to the priest. The priest would examine the animal to ensure it was perfect without spot or blemish. If the animal was accepted the offender would lay his hands on the animal's head. At this time an exchange took place. The sin that was committed was transferred to the animal. The perfection/innocence of the animal (a picture of righteousness) was transferred to the offender. The offender would kill the animal. The judgment of death came on the animal instead of the offender. The innocent blood of the animal made atonement for the offender's sin. The blood of the animal testified, the sin has been paid for by death, satisfying the judgment and justice of God. The blood justified the offender. The offender left justified and righteous in God's sight, therefore, he got to enjoy the great blessings of righteousness. His sin was not counted against him because he had a substitute to take his place. At the cross, Jesus became your personal sacrifice. He became your substitute. All your sins were transferred to Him. His perfect righteousness was transferred to you. God's judgment for your sins fell on Jesus and He died. His blood testifies, a death has taken place for your sins. His blood forever justifies you. God will never count your sins against you. He will never judge you for your sins because you have a substitute that has already borne your sins and has already been judged for your sins. You walk away from the cross, justified and forever righteous before your

Heavenly Father, therefore, the blessings of righteousness belong to you (*2 Corinthians 1:20*). There were several different types of animal sacrifices in the Old Covenant. Each is a picture of Jesus and what He did for you on the cross. This Old Covenant system fell apart because the people would not follow the laws that governed it. Eventually, God's judgment fell on the people and they were banished from their land and brought into bondage by their enemies. They were only a picture of Jesus on the cross. When Jesus came He brought with Him grace and truth (*John 1:17*). He became the perfect sacrifice, that has once and for all, atoned for man's sin and has put man's sin out of God's sight (*Hebrews 9:26*). Sin is no longer an issue with God (*Romans 4:6-8*). Jesus brought in a New Covenant (*Hebrews 8:10*). Jesus reconciled us to God by bearing our sins and giving us His perfect righteousness. Now we can come before our Father in the righteousness of His Son. When God looks at you, He sees you wearing Jesus' righteousness. You are forever loved, and accepted into God's family as one of His beloved sons (*Ephesians 1:5-6*).

When God gave Moses the Ten Commandments and the Laws of Moses He knew man could not keep it. The purpose of giving the Law was to reveal the sin nature in man (*Romans 3:20*). It was designed to make everyone guilty before God (*Romans 3:19*) and to show man he was a sinner, so that man would see his need for a Savior and accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

The Law was designed to bless man. However, because of man's sin nature, no one could keep it, therefore, it brought all mankind under the Curse of the Law. What was meant to bless man cursed him (*Romans 7:10*). You must then ask the question, is the Law sin? The answer is no. The Law is perfect. It reveals God's perfect righteousness, holiness, justice, and love. The problem is man is born in sin, and his sin nature deceives him, and will not allow him to keep the Law. It was designed to expose the sin nature in man, so that he would see his need for a Savior and accept Jesus into his heart. God sent His Son into this world as the Last Adam (*1 Corinthians 15:45*). He is now the head of a new creation, a new creature. Jesus is our representative. He was born of a virgin. Adam's sin could not be passed down to Him for His Father was God. He lived a sinless life. He obeyed the Law of Moses completely. He was a perfect man fulfilling the requirements of the Law to be righteous before God. He was the only human being that was sinless and completely righteous before God. Jesus was perfect, He was holy, He was righteous, and He was the perfect sacrifice. God designed the animal sacrifice system to demonstrate His love and satisfy His justice. He loved the people by allowing them to have a substitute. His justice was satisfied by killing the substitute. It was God's plan to make an exchange with man in order to demonstrate His great love for them. The Old Covenant system was in place until Jesus came. The entire Old Covenant was pointing to the Savior who would come and save man and reconcile him back to God. The Old Covenant was only types and shadows of Jesus and His finished work on the cross. Jesus is the substance. He is the real thing. Now that we have Jesus we are no longer under the Law. Just as all men are born sinners because of Adam's disobedience in the Garden of Eden, all men who believe the gospel is born-again righteous because of Jesus' obedience to go to the cross (*Romans 5:18*). We are righteous, not because we are obedient, but because Jesus was obedient. When we believe the gospel we are choosing to eat from the Tree of Life. Jesus is the door to the Tree of Life. The Tree of Life is a relationship with God based on His love, His goodness, His mercy, and His righteousness. The Tree of Life is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

All who base their relationship with God on His great love for them, by sending them a Savior, are free from condemnation and all judgment. They are reconciled to God and considered righteous in His sight. They are qualified to partake of the inheritance of the saints (*Colossians 1:12*). This inheritance of the saints is the blessings of righteousness. It includes a life of rest, good health, long life, abundant prosperity and eternal life in heaven with God. However, these great promises are released to you only as you submit your life to the Lordship of Jesus, by obeying the Word of God, that governs each promise.

Satan's greatest lie was to make the New Testament church believe they have to keep the Ten Commandments (Law of Moses) in order to be righteous and worthy of God. The gospel of Jesus Christ declares, you are freely forgiven of all your sins for your entire life. You will never be condemned for your sins. You will never be judged for your sins. Your sins will never be counted against you. It declares, Jesus has freely given to

you, as a free gift, His righteousness. The Father has freely qualified you to inherit all the wonderful blessings of righteousness. The Father has freely accepted you into His beloved family and you are declared one of His righteous sons. He freely gives you His kingdom and endues you with power to represent Him on this earth, in all His power and glory. All this is given to you as a free gift because you believed the gospel. The moment you must perform, or obey in order to be righteous, your relationship with God is no longer by grace but is based on your works, which is Law. You cannot mix Law and Grace. Either your relationship with God is based on Jesus' finished work on the cross or it is based on your obedience to the Law of Moses. The moment you try to obtain your righteousness before God by your obedience you fall from grace (*Galatians 5:4*). The result of trying to obtain your righteousness by the Law is condemnation and death. The result of grace is love, acceptance, value, and eternal life.

The confusion comes in because Christians still sin. The sin nature in man reasons, the Law is the answer to sin. It reasons, if you reveal your brother's sin to him, he will see his sin and then turn away from it. This is why many preachers and religious people preach against sin. Their intentions may be right but this method is guaranteed to fail. When you preach against sin or condemn someone for their sin, it causes them to become sin conscience. It brings them under condemnation. It actually strengthens their sin (*1 Corinthians 15:56*). It points them to the Law to find their righteousness. It brings them under the Curse of the Law. They become condemned, guilty, oppressed, and feel unworthy of God. This is why many of our churches are filled with hypocrites and have no power in them. The Law can never change someone's behavior. It can only demand that they change. People cannot change their behavior (because their flesh will deceive them) without their hearts being transformed. It is God's goodness and His amazing grace that changes the heart of man. Once a person's heart is transformed his behavior will soon follow.

Now that we have chosen to eat from the Tree of Life, we must submit ourselves to what God calls good and evil. We must submit ourselves to His instructions in every area of our lives. For example, in Ephesians 5:21-33, instructions are given concerning marriage. The wife is instructed to submit to her husband and to respect him. The husband is instructed to give his life for his wife and to wash her with love and acceptance. If you obey these instructions you are eating from the Tree of Life concerning your marriage and you will find life and health in your marriage. However, if you refuse God's Lordship in your marriage by saying, "I will not submit to my husband nor will I respect him," or "I will not give my life for my wife nor will I wash her with love and acceptance," you are eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil in your marriage and the result will be death to your marriage. We must renew our minds to God's Lordship in every area of our life, so that we can enjoy the abundant life Jesus came to give us. However, it will take time to learn and understand God's Word that we are to live by. Grace is covering us while we are learning how to live by the Word of God in every area of our lives. It may take years to learn how to submit to your husband and respect him or to lay your life down for your wife and wash her with the water of praise and acceptance. Grace does not give us permission to sin and not feel bad about it, no it covers us while we are growing and learning how to live by God's Word.

Chapter Two

Why do Christians still sin?

When you accepted Jesus as your Savior, you received a new spirit (*Ezekiel 36:26-27*). Your old spirit, that was separated from God and full of sin, died with Christ. It was buried with Christ. You resurrected with Christ forever free from sin. Your new born-again spirit is positionally perfect. It is one with God. God's Spirit and your spirit become one. You also received a new heart. Your old heart is called a heart of stone. It is a heart that lives by the Law. If someone wrongs you, you condemn them and demand they are punished. However, your heart of stone is deceived. It judges others but justifies self. It is full of hypocrisy. The good news is when you accept Jesus as your Savior you get a new heart of flesh. The first time the word "flesh" is used in the Bible, is when God took the rib out of Adam and closed up his flesh. It is a picture of marriage. You get a new heart that is married to Jesus. Your new heart is married to grace. Your new heart can understand grace. Your old heart of stone can never understand grace. You also receive God's Holy Spirit to come and live inside of you. He is called the Spirit of the Son. This Holy Spirit in you cries out to God "Abba" (Daddy) Father (*Galatians 4:6*). The same Holy Spirit that was with Jesus and helped Him go to the cross. He is the Spirit of Love. He empowers and helps you to love others as Christ has loved you. We get a new born-again spirit, we get a new heart, we even get the mind of Christ (*1 Corinthians 2:16*), and best of all we get the Holy Spirit living inside of us, however, our body has not been redeemed (*Romans 8:23*). It has been sanctified (separated unto God) but it is still mortal. Our sin nature still lives in our mortal bodies (*Romans 7:23*). Our spirit is no longer enslaved by the sin nature. We get a new heart, however, our past memories, hurts, failures, bitterness, envy, etc. still reside in our hearts. Little by little as we are faithful to renew our minds to God's Word, these old hurts and memories are healed and uprooted out of our hearts. This is a process that the Bible calls sanctification. As we renew our minds to the Word of God we can discern the difference between our spirit and our flesh.

As we are able to discern between our flesh and our spirit we are instructed to crucify our flesh daily (*Romans 12:1*). We are to count ourselves dead to it (*Romans 6:11*). We overcome this old sin nature by loving and serving others (*Galatians 5:13*). The revelation of God's great love for us is the cornerstone we must build our lives on. The more we behold Jesus and understand His finished work at the cross the more we are transformed into the image of Jesus our Savior. Unfortunately, we will sin as long as we are in these mortal bodies. The good news is God does not count our sins against us. The more we fall in love with Jesus and understand His great love for us the less we will sin. When you do commit a sin just remember you have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, who is your atoning sacrifice (*1 John 2:1-2*). He has already borne your sin. God has already condemned Jesus for your sin. Therefore, you are already forgiven. Just simply repent of your sin and receive your forgiveness and declare with your mouth, I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. Do not beat yourself up for your issues, attitudes, and sins. Your heavenly Father is also called the Gardener of your heart; He will surely work with you to set you free from every issue and sin you have in your heart (*John 15:1*). Your responsibility is to do the one thing that will guarantee success and great victory in your life (*Luke 10:42*). Make up your mind, you are going to sit at Jesus' feet. Make up your mind, you are going to spend time every day with Jesus. You are going to renew your mind to who you are in Christ and His great love for you. You are going to fill your heart with the amazing and powerful gospel of Jesus Christ.

There is a New Testament ordinance, Jesus put in place to constantly remind us of His finished work at the cross, where He demonstrated God's great love for us. We call it the communion. There are two elements to the communion, the wine (juice) that represents the blood of Jesus and the bread that represents the broken body of Jesus. Every time we take the communion, we are declaring the death of our Lord and Savior (*1 Corinthians 11:26*). We are instructed to remember what He did for us on the cross. At the cross, Jesus bore all of our sins in His own body. God then judged Jesus for our sins. Jesus died for our sins. His innocent blood was shed. His blood testifies, all our sins have been paid for by the death of Jesus on the cross. His blood justifies us forever. When you take the communion, remember you are forever forgiven. If you have sinned,

remember Jesus is your atoning sacrifice and has redeemed you from every lawless deed, and then receive your forgiveness. God judged Jesus with the entire Curse of the Law, which broke His body. When you take the communion, examine yourself and see if any of the curse (sickness, disease, pain) is afflicting your body. If it is, as you take the bread, receive your healing that Jesus purchased for you. At the communion table, we are to remember the exchange Jesus made with us at the cross. He took all of our sins into His own body. God punished Him with the entire Curse of the Law for our sins. He redeemed us from every lawless deed (*Titus 2:14*) and from the Curse of the Law. He gave us His perfect righteousness. We are forever righteous and worthy to stand before our Father and fellowship with Him. The communion is a great celebration of our redemption in Christ Jesus.

Let me say one last thing before I finish, to help you to discern the Bible and rightly divide it. Always ask yourself, who is the author talking to? What is the subject he is talking about? What is the context of the subject matter? Always let the Bible interpret itself. In most cases, the first time a word or subject is used in the Bible, it is significant in defining that word throughout the rest of the Bible. And last of all, look for Jesus in the types and shadows.

Jesus greatest commandment to His church was to love one another. You will never be able to love God or others until you understand God's great love for you. God's love was demonstrated at the cross. The finished work at the cross is what empowers you to love God and others as you love yourself. When you understand, you are forgiven of all your sins, you will be empowered to forgive others of their sins. If you struggle with forgiving others it is because you have forgotten that you are forgiven. The Law of Moses could not empower you to love or forgive. It could only demand that you do. However, Jesus' finished work on the cross demonstrates God's great love for you, by forgiving you from all your sins for your entire life. These truths fill the void in your heart, to be loved, accepted, and have a sense of value, which empowers you to love and forgive others.

Through the gospel, Jesus freely gives to all His holiness, who believe in Him, Therefore, all Christians are holy before God because of their faith in Jesus. It is good for us to know the moral laws of God, so that we can strive to keep them. However, we do not strive to keep God's moral laws to become righteous or holy. We strive to keep them because we are righteous and holy. If we fall short of God's moral laws it does not change our righteousness or our holiness before Him. We are forever righteous and holy before our God because we believe the gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord. God revealed the mystery of the Gospel to the Apostle Paul. His writings were written to the church, giving us the revelation of the cross and giving us instruction in life. Let me say before I close, sin is deadly. Even though God does not count it against us, it will bring us great harm and death. You cannot continue to practice sin if you are a Christian. Your heart will condemn you. Sin will give the devil an open door into your life and he will come to destroy you. The Gospel empowers you to love God and others, which empowers you to defeat sin and its selfish wisdom that runs through your mind. However, it will take some time for you to renew your mind to your redemption In Christ. While you are growing and learning you will fall short many times. When you fall short, simply remember, Jesus has already paid the price for all your sins in full. Therefore, no one can condemn you and no one can judge you. Simply repent to God and receive your forgiveness. Learn from your mistakes and move on.

In this little book, it was my goal to give you just a little taste of God's amazing Word. The word concerning your redemption is life to those who find it and health to all their flesh (*Proverbs 4:22*). This book, is like dipping a small bucket into the ocean of the revelations of God's love, hidden in the Bible. I hope I stirred up in you a desire to know God and to walk with Him. He only has love, mercy, and grace for you. All His judgment fell on Jesus. The only thing left for God to do, is love you.

To help you grow "In Christ" and understand your redemption, go to: