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OF LIFE AND IMMORTALITY

No.282

“But the path of the just is as a shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.”
(Prov.4: 18)

We are on a quest for truth (light), and truth can only be found as He who is the Truth reveals Himself to us. As we walk in the Light that He gives us, there is no condemnation nor intimidation. *“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 cleanses us from all sin.”* (I Jn.1: 7)

His living Word is light and it is Bread. He feeds us a portion each day. Our living Bread is not like the manna that had to be eaten the same day or it would get wormy. Our Bread can be served over and over again and it is fresh each time we partake of it.

COATS OF SKINS

Recently a dear sister asked me what I saw in this verse, *“Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them.”* (Gen.3: 21) I answered that I believe this is where God in His mercy, gave them bodies that would withstand the harshness of the earth. These coats represented their earthly bodies.

Then she said, “Yes, but they already had earthly bodies for they had been formed of the dust of the earth and set in the garden of Eden, therefore they already had earthly bodies. So why now the skins?”

When Adam and Eve were in Eden, they indeed had bodies formed of the dust of the earth. But their bodies were immortal. The reason for this, was that

they had no sin and also because they daily communed with the Lord. They heard His voice as He came in the “cool” or “breeze” of the day, and they were kept by His power, until...the day of their fatal disobedience when sin entered in.

“..for sin is the transgression of the law.” (I Jn.3: 4b) The Law came by Moses so Adam and Eve did not transgress the Law, yet God's Word is Law and so their disobedience to His Word is sin. The Word of God to them did not come by Moses, it came by hearing His voice. They disobeyed the Law of the Spirit of life and died.

When sin entered into them, they lost their innocence and their communication with God. Without hearing God's voice, they were no longer covered by His life and found themselves naked, ashamed and mortal. So they made themselves “aprons” or loin cloths out of the fig tree's large leaves to cover the shame of their nakedness. There was a day that Jesus came to a fig tree, looking for fruit but He found nothing but leaves. Leaves represent the works of man's own righteousness.

The church under law only produced works and not fruit. These works are what the Adam man has been using to cover the guilt and shame of sin, ever since. God clothed them with coats of skin. These coats were their mortal bodies. Immortality had put on mortality.

Adam and Eve did something punishable by death: they DISOBEYED GOD. They disregarded the command that He had given to them. After that, their fellowship with God was cut off and they were

groping in the dark, on their own. *“The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.”* (Prov.4: 19)

They no longer had access to the tree of life and had to live by the forbidden tree of knowledge of good and evil, or the serpent's twisted guidance coming through their own carnal minds.

It was God's mercy that gave them coats of skin. Adam and Eve already had bodies of dust but when they were cast out of the garden, they no longer had the protection of God's Spirit to shelter them. Their flesh was no longer kept alive by the power of God but now *“..the life of the flesh was in the blood.”* (Lev.17:11) They were faced with the harsh climate of the earth, and sentenced to hard labor for life. Their bodies needed the protection of skin.

I looked up the function of the skin and found out that one of the major role of the skin is perspiration. Perspiration regulates the temperature of the body. A piece of skin the size of a quarter, contains 100 sweat glands. Perspiration is indispensable to life. Man was now cast into the earth to live by the **“sweat** of his brow.”

“In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.” (Gen.3: 19) This is where all of creation has been ever since. Paul declares, *“For as in Adam ALL DIE, even so in Christ shall ALL be made alive.”* (I Cor.15: 22)

The Spirit of God no longer supplied life for their flesh, and the blood which was polluted by sin, became that life. Through the polluted blood, the flesh became corruptible and corrupt. They had lost their glorious immortality and put on mortality.

When Adam and Eve's blood became corruptible their bodies became susceptible to diseases and death, and as God had warned, they died. Although it seems they still lived many years, they had died for they had lost their immortality and could not escape the grave.

Because the life is in the blood, God demands

blood sacrifices. And it is also why the blood of Jesus is vital to salvation. We are redeemed (bought back into incorruptible bodies) by the only One who has incorruptible blood).

Peter writes that we were not redeemed by “corruptible” things, *“But by the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”* (I Pet.1: 19) Only the incorruptible blood of Jesus can redeem our mortal bodies so that *“This corruptible might put on incorruption, and this mortal might put on immortality.”* (From I Cor.15: 54a)

Blood has to be shed for any sacrifice to be acceptable to God. Without blood there is no remission for sin. This is why the New Covenant is sealed in His blood. This is why the altars of the Tabernacle are sprinkled with blood and why the High Priest cannot enter the Holiest of all without blood.

When sin came in, Adam and Eve's blood stream became impure and mortality set in. This is why, while still in Egypt, Israel had to spread the blood of a pure lamb on the posts and lintels of their houses in order to be saved from the death angel that swooped down upon Egypt and took the lives of all their firstborns.

We are redeemed by the blood of the sinless Lamb. We are washed in the blood of the Lamb. Through the sacrifice of Jesus' pure blood, we can come boldly to the throne of grace, hear the voice of the Son of God and obey Him, until His life swallows up our death.

“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice.” (Jn.5: 28) Our “dead” soul has been laying in the grave of these mortal bodies. It is the VOICE OF THE SON OF GOD that we hear in our soul, that raises us from the dead.

Paul writes about God's dear Son *“In whom we have redemption **through his blood**, even the forgiveness of sin.”* (Col.1: 14) This is why the blood of Jesus is so powerful. It is the only blood that redeems us from sin and mortality. The blood of the

Lamb of God saves us from the endless cycle of death that we were plunged into through Adam.

No other blood has the power to turn these mortal bodies into immortals, even as we stand right here on earth, or raise them from the grave. Christ Himself is the resurrection and the life, and so to the measure that resurrection life arises from within, our death is swallowed up of life.

The writer of Hebrews declares plainly, "*But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle (immortal) not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building (not of this sinful blood); 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.*" (Heb.9: 11-12)

John introduced the One who sent him his mighty visions, with these words, "*From Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and WASHED US FROM OUR SINS IN HIS OWN BLOOD.*"(Rev.1: 5)

While in the Spirit, John saw the redeemed of the Lord, "*And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God **by thy blood** out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation..*" (Rev.5:9)

"*After this I beheld, and ,lo, a great multitude, which **no man could number**, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands.*(Rev.7: 9)

One of the elders that was present asked, "*What are these which are arrayed in white robes? And whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have WASHED THEIR ROBES, AND MADE THEM WHITE IN THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB.*" (Vs.13b-14)

These white robes were not literal cloth robes washed in literal blood, these robes describe the resurrected bodies of people of all nations and kindreds and tongues, who have been made pure and redeemed from sin and death by the blood of Jesus Christ. The white robes denote the sinlessness and immortality of their bodies.

Adam and Eve and all of humanity since have tried to cover their sinful nature with good works. But none of these have changed the fact that all are still mortals. All the good works that "religions" exhort us to do, can make a difference in the quality of life while here on earth, but they cannot stop the cycle of death that faces us all. We all need a Redeemer and the only one who shows us how to break the cycle of death is Jesus Christ. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Cain offered the sacrifice of his own works unto God and it was not acceptable. God accepted Abel's little lamb for it was a blood sacrifice pointing to the Lamb of God whose blood is shed for the world. The story of Cain and Abel has been repeated many times in men's lives, and is still being repeated by deceived Christians who are led to believe that the good works that they do for their churches will save them.

And so the whole creation can be heard groaning and travailing in pain. "*For we know that the **WHOLE CREATION** groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves, groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, **the redemption of our body.***" (Rom.8: 22-23)

ETERNAL LIFE AND IMMORTALITY

We know that the Lord God created all visible things to clearly show us the reality of the invisible. "*For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world, are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead so they are without excuse.*" (Rom.1: 20) This is one of the most important keys given to open our understanding into the realm of spirit.

All life comes from God who is Spirit. In the visible creation, there are levels of life. There is the life of humans, the life of various animals, of insects, of microorganism, of plants, trees and flowers and more. These are all living things in many forms. It tells us that in the realm of Spirit, there are also levels of life.

Spirit is eternal and not subject to death, *“Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return to God who gave it.”* (Eccl.12:7) Christ is Spirit and life. He is like a diamond with many facets. He is a quickening Spirit and a giver of life. Jesus Christ possesses the highest form of eternal life. *“For as the Father hath life IN HIMSELF; so hath he given to the Son to have life in Himself..”* (Jn.5:26)

The eternal life of Jesus Christ depends on nothing and no one else. He is as the Father who needs no air to breathe or food or water or anything to keep Him alive. This is the highest form of eternal life. This is given to the Firstborn Son as He is heir of all that the Father hath. This is the eternal life that Paul was pressing toward. Jesus said, *“And this is eternal life, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”* (Jn.17: 3) To know God is to be one with Him and be like Him.

Eternal life is the prize of the high calling of God in Christ. **IMMORTALITY** speaks of eternal life in a body here on earth. This is what Adam and Eve lost and it is what Jesus came to buy back or redeem. The word immortality means deathlessness. Human are mortals because their bodies cannot continue to exist forever.

Jesus is the Savior of the world. He is the Savior of the earthly creation. He brought to light the knowledge of life and IMMORTALITY through the Gospel. The Gospel is the Lord's tool to let us know that there is Good News. And that Good News is that in Him there is life and immortality for us all.

The Lord Jesus Christ, *“Who hath saved us and called us with an holy calling, not according to our own works, but according to his own purpose and*

grace, which was given in Christ Jesus before the world began, but is now made manifest by the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath brought life AND IMMORTALITY to light through the gospel.” (II Tim.1: 9-10) Before the world began, God had prepared Jesus Christ to bring eternal life and immortality to the world.

When Paul explains that *“This corruptible (body) MUST put on incorruption, and this mortal (body) MUST put on immortality..”* he was saying that this is a **MUST** because it was ordained of God from the foundation of the world. It is a **MUST** that these bodies be restored to immortality. It is a **MUST** because God so loves His creation that He sent His only Son Jesus Christ to do this work.

What kept Adam and Eve immortal in the garden was the covering of the Spirit of God that came to speak to them each day. *“And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool (the breeze) of the day..”* (Gen. 3: 8a) They knew God because they heard His voice. After their last visit from the Lord God, they were no longer immortal. With few exceptions, from that day forward, man could only hear from God through a prophet. Now it is in the Son, through the Holy Ghost that we hear His voice.

The sacrifice of the blood of Jesus pays fully for the redemption of our spirit, soul and body. His Holy Spirit leads us into all truths. He is the Light that leads us to know Him so that we might have life.

Jesus Christ has planted His incorruptible Seed within us. *“Being born again, not of corruptible seed..”* (I Pet.1: 23a) The Word that He speaks directly to us is the incorruptible seed that gives us life.

Jesus is still the only One who has attained to immortality. He was sinless here on earth and his body now is able to live in the earth, as He showed when He returned for forty days and nights after His resurrection. Jesus Christ, *“Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen”* (I Tim.6: 16)

At this time, no man hath immortality, for no man is eternally alive in the earth. Yet this is the Light or Truth that is revealed to us through the Gospel. From this, one can see, how warped the Gospel of Jesus Christ has become. For centuries, the visible church has conjured up a “heaven” somewhere in space where the departed in Christ enjoy each other for eternity. Never mind that Jesus died to REDEEM our bodies. Never mind that the entire creation is groaning, waiting for the redemption of their bodies.

Paul says that immortality is a MUST. It is so because Jesus paid the price. The Psalmist declares, *“Arise, O God, judge the earth: for thou shalt inherit all nations.”* (Ps.82: 8) Indeed, when all nations shall be subdued unto Christ, *“...then shall also the Son Himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.”* (I Cor.15: 28) At that time, all THINGS, including all nations, shall be subject to Christ.

Eternal life as the life of the Firstborn Son comes by inheritance. And inheritance comes only to mature sons. *“..the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all.”* (Gal.4:1) Eternal life on the level of the firstborn Son is given to the Firstfruits. They have matured first by overcoming through suffering. *“He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.”* (Rev.21:7)

The overcomers in Christ, inherit ALL things. They inherit the earth, which means they not only live in the Spirit, they are alive forever in the earth as well. *“But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.”*(Ps.37: 11) The meek is the one who is submitted to the Lord.

So what is the difference between the eternal life that comes to the believer in Christ, and the eternal life that is inherited in Christ? One is a quickening Spirit and one is only quickened by the Spirit. It is the same difference as the Sun and the Moon. One is the Light and life giver, the other is a reflexion of the Light. One is like Jesus whose life was within Himself and the other is like Adam in the garden

whose immortality depended on his outer communion with the Spirit of God.

All who are in God's kingdom will have access to the tree of Life (Christ) and live forever. They will fellowship with Him in the “cool” or “breeze” of the day. As long as Adam and Eve had communion with God in the cool of the day, they lived. Yet their communion or fellowship with the Spirit of God was “outer”. It came to them by the Spirit outside of themselves. The immortality that God's sons inherit, is fellowship from within. It is the Spirit within who is our eternal life and our immortality. It does not depend on any outer sources.

FIRSTFRUITS UNTO GOD AND TO THE LAMB

It is obvious that firstfruits are those who attain to maturity first. The firstfruits are those who are the first offering unto God. Jesus is First and He is the Head. Then comes the company who is His body. They are the firstfruits of His resurrection, who are called to deliver creation from the bondage of sin and death. They are those who hear His voice daily, who believe and follow Him. They daily embrace the cross rather than having their own way. They do it all for the sake of knowing Him.

They are often as Joseph of old, whose dreams were rejected by his own brethren. They have followed the Lamb wherever He led them and they are standing with Him on Mount Zion (the place of God's government). They are ready to receive the Word that will change the world. They have been redeemed from among men to rule and reign with Christ in the ages to come.

By the Spirit, John saw the company of firstfruits standing upon the Mt. Sion. And in the same vision, he saw “another angel” flying in the midst of heaven. *“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell in the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come...”* (Rev. 14: 6-7a)

John says that this was “another angel” or messenger. This one was bringing a very special word to the world. It is called the “Everlasting Gospel.” The word “Gospel” means “Good News.” Everlasting means to last throughout the ages. This was the Good News that God's mercy endures FOREVER (Ps. 106).

That Jesus Christ is able to save to the uttermost. *“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.”* (Heb.7: 25) He is a priest throughout the ages to come. And the Gospel is everlasting. It is this never-ending good news that will quicken all of this groaning creation in the ages to come.

The “Everlasting Gospel” is the “new song” that those who are the Firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb sing in the power of His might. *“These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.”*(Rev.14: 4b)

THE PRIZE OF THE HIGH CALLING FIRST RESURRECTION

“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, 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.” (Phil.3: 13-14)

Paul was a man with a unique experience. The Lord Jesus had brought him down from his high horse in a way that was anything but gentle. Then he received revelations that he could hardly put into words. He was sent all over Asia Minor and Europe, to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to people who had mostly been worshippers of false gods.

But there was something more than his calling to the Gentiles in Paul's mind and heart. He was out to win the prize of the high calling. He was like Jacob of old who had to have more than a small portion of inheritance; he desired the 'birthright'.

Paul accomplished so much in his ministry. He established the church that Jesus had begun to build in

the earth. It was not the church that the Spirit calls the Mother of harlots and abominations of the earth, that Paul started. This came later when the spirit of antichrist (instead of Christ) enticed the people with intimidating doctrines. Paul began the true church, the one who is called the Bride and who gives birth to the Manchild company, not the one we see in the world today.

Paul knew he was saved by grace and not by works; he taught it all to the church. Paul knew that he had been apprehended to attain the inheritance of the firstborn Son. He gladly laid down all of his training and education as a Pharisee of Pharisees, the traditions of the fathers, the honor that came from being of the tribe of Benjamin and the adulation that men gave him; he counted it all as waste.

Paul was pressing for more. He wrote, *“But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but dung, that I may win Christ.”* (Phil.3: 8) Paul was out to WIN CHRIST.

Paul was running a race to WIN CHRIST. His soul yearned to know Him as He is and to be like Him. The race was not a competition with other saints, it was a race against his SELF. *“That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death. If by any means I might attain to the resurrection of the dead.”* (Vs.10-11)

Paul was yearning to attain to the same resurrection as His Lord. He wanted to be found in the firstborn Son. He wanted to be found in the FIRST resurrection. He wanted to be raised in the same body of glory as His Lord. Paul wanted to be joint-heirs with Christ.

“But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. THIS IS THE FIRST RESURRECTION.” (Rev.20: 5) The word “first” in the Greek dictionary is defined as “first in order or in IMPORTANCE.” The first resurrection is not only first in time but also in importance. It is the

resurrection of the Son of God who is a life-giving Spirit. It is reserved for those who are part of His eternal priesthood, His government in the ages to come. This is for the heirs. And the heirs must have come to maturity through suffering with Christ.

“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children (seed) of God. And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.” (Rom.8: 16-17)

Firsrfruits have learned obedience through suffering. They have overcome the world, the flesh and the devil and have become mature sons indeed. *“But as many as received him, to them gave he power TO BECOME the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, BUT OF GOD.”* (Jn.1:12-13)

The overcomer is the Son in you and me. He arises within as we walk in obedience to His Holy Spirit. As we mature, our obedience is no longer motivated by fear; it is motivated by love. The Holy Spirit leads us into all truths, and when we see the truth, with find the power to overcome our doubts and fears and to reject the traditions, teachings and ways of men.

Mature sons of God are free to embrace what the Spirit teaches without fear of what men might say or think of them. In his epistle John tells us that we have overcome the spirit of antichrist (instead of Christ) which was then already in the world, *“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.”* (Jn.4: 4)

Through the Spirit, they overcame their fears and the snare of the fowler. They became sons of God and joint-heirs with Christ. Indeed all who are in Christ Jesus have eternal life, but to be like Jesus and have the same measure of life, belongs to the heirs.

When the mother of Zebedee's sons (James and John) came to Jesus and asked that her sons be

granted to sit on His right and left Hand in His kingdom, Jesus answered, *“Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? And they said unto him, ‘We are able.’”*

And he said unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father.” (Matt.20: 20-23)

We may drink of the cup of Christ's sufferings, we may attain to great ministries. We may accumulate much knowledge in the Word, but all of these things become a waste to us, for the knowledge of Christ. To know Him and have communion with Him, to hear His voice and share in His love, is indeed the pearl of great price.

God's Word is Spirit and can only be understood by the Spirit. We know that He *“..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.”* (II Cor. 3: 6)

Some have taught the Word in the literal letter and have led their followers to literally sell or give away all their possessions. Sincere followers have sold their homes and left their jobs to follow what they were told was God's will for them.

Many have ended up laboring to build a man's kingdom, perhaps in some far away wilderness or foreign country. Some returned wounded in spirit and had to start over again to rebuild their lives, while a few have died believing they were laying down their lives for Christ.

I am not saying that the Spirit would never lead someone to literally sell all their goods and move to some deserted area, however, most of the time, what the Spirit is asking us to leave behind are the traditions that we have been taught by the church.

When the Spirit leads, it is usually on a personal basis; not a group leading. When Jesus spoke with the

rich young ruler, He was talking to one man, not a group of people. The Spirit leads us each personally. Each one has to follow the Spirit within, not the “spirit of the group.” The Body of Christ is not in flesh and blood but in Spirit and life. This is why He indwells each one individually.

Many Christians today are as the children who make up the Kingdom of God. They are beloved of the Lord and they have eternal life. However these words are for those, who as Paul, feel that they have been called to more. These are times of pressing toward WINNING CHRIST, that the old nature might be found no more. This is the day to reach the goal of that which we were apprehended for, even being as He is in the world. Amen!

Because of His love, *Jackie Caporaso*

In Memoriam

The Dew Upon The Roses

September 5, 1929- September 26, 2016

Our sister Rosemary Garzon has quietly passed to the other side of the veil. All who have been blessed by her anointing in writing and sharing the Word of life will miss her. The Lord called her back quickly, as He does when He calls back His beloved saints.

We pray that the Lord Jesus will comfort her family and all who were part of her personal life at home. She will be genuinely and greatly missed by all who knew her in the Spirit, as well as in this every day life. Her strong faith and keen insight in the plan and purposes of God over the years, have been a invaluable gift to the Body of Christ.

The apostle Paul wrote, “*For we know that if our earthly house (mortal body) of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, and house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*”

(II Cor.5: 1)

Through her “Dew Upon the Roses” letters, Rosemary has often expressed her yearning to remember what it was like to be in Christ before the foundation of the world, now, perhaps she knows, for she has put on her “house from above.”

Our sister has joined the congregation of saints from above, whom the Spirit calls His “Cloud of Witnesses.” She dwells in the presence of the One who is the true Lover of her soul, and who is keeping her under His wings.

Thank you Rosemary, for giving us the example of a beautiful walk. Thank you for the love of Christ that was poured out from your heart to us all. Thank you for the prayers that you tirelessly prayed for the Body of Christ.

So long dear Rosemary, with much love from the “Wire Church” and from all who were blessed by you and your faithful ministry. JC