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No.329

## **DIVIDING ASUNDER**

### **GOD SENT HIS SON**

When we hear these words, we know right away that it refers to our Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior, who walked the earth some two-thousand years ago. Indeed, the Son of God left the glory that He had with the Father, and came as a man in the flesh to show the love of the Father and save a dying world.

Paul wrote to Timothy about God our Savior, *“who will have all men to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”* (I Tim.2:4) This is the will of God, and Jesus opened the way on His first coming here on earth, and throughout the ages to come, He will finish the work. In His body of sons, He will deliver and restore God’s entire creation.

We stand strong upon these truths and we look eagerly to the complete fulfillment of it all as God’s Spirit in us, daily immerses us into Himself, and leads us into all truths. Little by little all the false teachings of the past, are being replaced by the truly good news of the Gospel.

Before the foundation of the world, our heavenly Father made a magnificent plan for the world that He so loves. And He has purposed it all through His Son. And so we know Jesus the Son as He was long ago, and as He has been revealing Himself to us through the Spirit. But do we know that the nation Israel of the old Testament, was also God’s Son? When God chose Moses to deliver Israel from the hard bondage of Egypt, He sent him to Pharaoh with these words, *“And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the Lord, ISRAEL IS MY SON, EVEN MY FIRST-*

*BORN.”* (Ex.4:22) God had chosen Israel to show forth His glory to all the heathen nations around them. When He delivered Israel from the bondage of Egypt, God was not trying to straighten out the Egyptians; His purpose was to deliver His nation, His Son, that they might show forth His power and glory in the earth.

Israel was to be the image of God to the world. They were called to be a light to the darkness around them, and for a time, it was so. This is what Rahab said to the men who were sent to spy out the land, *“I know that the Lord hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you. For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when you came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed.”* (Josh.2:9-10) And the story went on and on among the nations about the power and greatness of the God of Israel.

God’s great purpose and plan was for His nation (whom He called His Son), to show His glory, but instead, they mingled with the gods of the heathen nations. They intermarried with them, and as a result, the entire nation of God ended up in bondage to heathen nations now much stronger and mightier than them. As a result, they were oppressed and became slaves in Egypt for 430 years and later, they were taken to Babylon in bondage for 70 years.

Because they forsook God, they suffered greatly, and to this day, they are still a people surrounded by enemies whose fury and goal is to annihilate them from the face of the earth.

God was longsuffering with them, but in time He turned away from His rebellious nation Israel, and sent His Son Jesus into the world to represent Him. Jesus was sent to the nation Israel, but they did not know Him, they rejected Him, and crucified God’s Son who had come to save them. *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye*

would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.” (Matt.23:37-38) Jesus was heart-broken but He prophesied, “For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side. And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.” (Lk.19:43-44) These are strong words, and they have come to pass as He said.

After His resurrection and ascension, Jesus proceeded to build His church, the New Jerusalem from above. He assigned the apostle Paul to begin the task of gathering His true church from among the Gentile nations. But soon this new church met up with strong opposition. The serpent came out with his master plan, and soon Mystery Babylon, the great impostor had set up her own priesthood and began to rule in the name of Jesus Christ. The true church suffered great persecution, and then went into hiding.

And so the little church of Jesus Christ began to grow in the hearts of a people, in secret. Members who were caught into the system of the impostor, were called out and set apart. Our Lord worked mightily to cleanse His bride from the lusts of the world and of the flesh. By His Holy Spirit, He sowed His Seed within her spiritual womb so that she might become the glorious church, without spot or wrinkle and that He might present her to Himself. And most of all, that her seed, the sons she gives birth to, might crush the head of the serpent, as God had said.

At this hour, let us be aware that there are many voices in the world, pretending to be sent from God. You know them because they are the voices who have set up flashy ministries, making themselves to be God, advising the people, and sounding alarms to the world, warning the world of their impending destruction from God.

They call the world to repentance when indeed, they are the ones who need to repent. As the church, God’s nation, they were called to be the light to the world, but they have plunged the world into their own gross darkness. It is the church that has sought the riches of the world rather than the truth of God,

that is called to repentance. It is because the heathen world can only walk by the light of a polluted system, that they are venting their anger and rebellion against God and humanity.

Many so-called prophets today address these words to the people of this country, “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their evil ways; then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” (II Chron.7:14)

They use this as a formula, thinking that if the people of this country will do this, the country will again find peace and prosperity. Indeed, these words were once addressed to God’s people Israel. Israel is no longer in covenant with God, for the covenant is now in the blood of Jesus Christ. These words are now addressed to the people who call themselves by His name today. These words are not addressed to the heathens who know not God; they are addressed to those who are parading in the name of Jesus Christ, but who are filled with lust for the wealth and glamor of this world.

These are the people who are called to turn from their evil ways, that the land may be healed. So our hope is not in that church; our hope is always in Jesus Christ, the Son of God who is soon to appear in His many-membered body, His true church in the earth.

## WHEN GOD APPEARS

*“In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of Egypt...And the Lord said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes, And be ready against THE THIRD DAY; for the third day the Lord will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai.” (Ex.19:1,10-11)*

This was a fearful site. God had shown His glory in Egypt when He shook the country to the core. He sent plagues and slew the firstborn of all who did not show the blood of a lamb upon their house’s door posts and lintel. He displayed His glory at the Red Sea, drowning an entire Egyptian cavalry, horses and

riders together. And so, when God announced that He was going to descend upon the Mount, one could not help but tremble in fear and awe.

The third day was indeed a terrifying day for Israel. When God began to speak, the entire mountain shook and quaked. *“And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that the people that was in the camp trembled...”*

*And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder Moses spake and God answered him by a voice. (Ex.19:16,19) And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, I am exceeding afraid and tremble.” (Heb.12:21)* The day that God appeared to Israel was indeed a frightful day.

The prophet Malachi speaks of the day when God shall suddenly come to His temple. *“But who may abide the day of his coming? And who shall stand when he appeareth? For he is like a refiner’s fire, and like fuller’s soap; And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.” (Mal.3:2-3)*

*“For behold, the day cometh that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble, and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.” (Mal.4:1)*

Note that the Lord is addressing His priesthood. At the time of this prophetic utterance, the priests were the sons of Levi. Today, we have another class of ministers, those are the sons, who are called after the order of Jesus Christ, the Melchizedek order. But the people who are called Christians, have been led by a man-made priesthood that the impostor has raised up in the land.

My dear brethren, we know that the Lord’s appearing is at hand. An entire new creation of man is about to be revealed. The fires that have been ignited in the world are caused by their coming appearing. The

kingdoms of the prince of this world are being consumed, and Babylon the mother of all religions, is crashing to the ground. Christ is appearing in His many-membered body; He is the true Light that will give peace to the world. God is about to reveal His true Church, His true government in the earth. God is not dealing with the world of heathens. He is calling upon those who call themselves His ministers, but have yet been following the ways of the world.

Israel of old is the example for the church today. As God told Moses, Israel was God’s son to the world in that day. They were sent into the world to be God’s nation in the midst of the heathens. They were to show them the power of God’s laws. Instead, they committed whoredom with the gods of the nations around them; they turned away from God and from their calling in the world. God was longsuffering with them and gave them many chances to turn back, but He had to let them go.

Later, God sent His Son Jesus, His firstborn in the form of a man. Jesus made it clear that He was sent to Israel, but they rejected Him. He told the woman of Canaan who cried unto Him for mercy, *“It is not meet to take the children’s bread, and to cast it to dogs.” (Matt.15:26)* But Jesus did cast His bread upon the whole world and He began to build His church.

Soon the vibrant little church fell to a system that became the masterpiece of the cunning serpent. Indeed, he did not do away with the name of Jesus Christ; he simply set up the greatest impostor of all. He used the things of the old priesthood to set up a new one with its robes of gold and shiny ornaments. It was very impressive, and Christians either flocked to it, or else were forcefully recruited into her ranks.

The church of the impostor became even more vile than Israel had been. She called herself the church of Jesus Christ, she made affinity with the kings of the world, and gained wealth from the sheep, and power over their lives. She kept the people in darkness and bondage through doctrines of fear and superstitions.

But God foreknew all this, and from the foundation of the world, He had predestinated, and also justified

and glorified a people for His name; these were His true church. They were in the world and He knew them by name. When He called them, they knew His voice. He raised them up “underground,” and they became His church. He cleansed her and impregnated her with His true Seed, and she is gloriously bringing forth the sons in His image. The sons have their Father’s name in their foreheads. They have His nature engraved in their minds and hearts. John saw them on the mount of Zion, with the Lamb. They had given their lives for this cause. And they are the saviours that the prophet of old saw, “*And saviours shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; (kingdoms of the man of flesh), and the kingdom shall be the Lord’s.*” (Obed.21)

The sons are in the world now. They are on both sides of the veil which will soon be removed. They stand as the Word of truth in the earth, causing the shaking and burnings of His approaching presence. Many are awaiting the coming of the Lord to catch them up in a cloud away from the violence of the earth, but they shall be surprised, for it will not happen as they have been taught. Perhaps, we as well, may be very surprised to know, that it is His presence in us, that is causing the terrible shaking that the earth and the people are going through in our day.

Jesus has returned long ago to His church. As a corn of wheat falling into the ground, He has sown His Seed within her spiritual womb. Throughout the centuries, He has impregnated His many-membered church, and now this same church is ready to give birth to His likeness and image in the world. God’s way to reproduce is to plant a seed and nurture it to full maturity. The only way to reproduce the likeness and image of the Son of God in a people, is to plant His Seed in the earthen vessels, and nurture it to full maturity.

The time of the end of this age is at hand and the harvest of all seeds is at hand. This is what we are witnessing in the world today. The harvest of the sons is the appearing of Jesus Christ. When God appeared to Israel it was a fearful day of thunders and lightnings and the mountain shook. Moses himself trembled and was “exceeding afraid.”

The prophet Joel saw the vision of the sons as they marched through the land. “*A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as a garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea and nothing shall escape them.*” (Joel 2:3) Indeed, the fire of God’s presence consumes all that carnal man has established for himself, and He replaces it with the peace of the garden of Eden. “*Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.*”

## WHAT IS MAN?

The Psalmist asked the Lord, “*What is man, that thou are mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him?*” (Ps.8:4)

The word “Genesis” means “in the beginning.” Its root, “gene,” means “to give birth,” “to be born.” The first chapter of the book of Genesis records the Word of God speaking creation into its birth. God first created the environment for his man. He created animals of all kinds, fowls of the air, fish in the waters, great whales. God also created trees to feed the man, “*And God said, behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; for you it shall be for meat.*” (Gen.1:29) And God said that they were good.

Then God proceeded to create a man to rule over His creation and take care of it. That man was created in the image of God Himself, “*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*” (Gen.1:26).

The first six days of creation depict God’s finished work. The man that God created on the sixth day is a complete, finished work. He is in God’s image. He is declared to be “very good” along with all that God had created in six days. “*And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, IT WAS VERY GOOD. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*” (Gen.1:31)

“*And on the seventh day, God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.*” (Gen.2:2) The key

is that all was finished in the invisible, heavenly realm of spirit, but it did not begin in the earthly realm until the day when the Lord God formed the man of earth. The pattern was still in the heavenlies, the mind of God, when the man called Adam came into being.

The man in the image of God was made male and female. In the language of the Spirit, male and female denote spirit and soul; this man was a spirit and soul being, designed for life in the earth. The only missing part at that stage, was a body. *“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. And the Lord planted a garden eastward of Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.”* (Gen.2:7-8)

This man is made of the dust of the ground, he is the image of the earthy and not yet the man that God created in His own image and likeness. Howbeit, this soul man is the earthen pot into which the man of Spirit will grow. *“As we have born the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.”* (I Cor. 15:49)

Thus the Lord God began the work of bringing the creation that He had spoken into being in the heavens, into the realm of His visible, earthly creation. He first brought into the earth, *“...every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew...”* (Gen.2:5)

*“And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.”* (Gen.2:9) He took the seed from the garden that was first created in the heavenly realm, and planted the garden in Eden. This was now man’s earthly environment with all the trees and herbs for food and medicine that he needed to sustain his body.

The Lord God proceeded to breathe the breath of life into the man’s nostrils, and man became a living SOUL. Right away, the Lord God placed the man in the garden with all the provisions for his physical life. Man was not only in a physical natural garden

where his body was well supplied, but man also had an inner garden where daily, he could hear the voice of God. The Lord gave the soul-man a spirit to connect his soul to the voice of God, and to connect God to the inner soul of man. *“The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inner parts of the belly.”* (Prov.20:27)

But the man’s earthly life did not issue from his soul; his life proceeded from the breath of God in his nostrils. This soul-being was God’s masterpiece, but it was not yet finished. *“The first man was of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven.”* (I Cor.15:47)

Just like any good piece of clay pottery, this man needed to be thrown on the wheel, kept wet with the water of the Spirit, pushed down many times, shaped, trimmed, then cast into a very hot kiln to bake until dry. It is then painted and glazed before being finished and displayed to many. This is the process of the man that God is finishing in the earth.

How did the Lord God throw the clay on the wheel? He had created the serpent for such a task. And the serpent did a fine job of deceiving the woman, (soul). By flattery, the woman fell prey to the Lie of the serpent. Of course she was smart, she could be her own “God” and with her husband, they could take care of this creation without the help of God, and thrive.

The sly serpent had touched man’s weak spot, his vanity. He went straight for man’s intellect, and convinced Eve that they were as smart as God, and that they could be free from having to listen to Him; they could be as gods themselves. The voice of God had been man’s knowledge of good and evil, his direction for judgment, but now man was on his own. He thought he was hearing his own voice of great wisdom, when indeed he was hearing the voice of the serpent.

And so the soul-man entered the realm of darkness and death as his mind was guided by the cunning of the serpent. The ways of the crooked serpent were man’s vision for his future, and the standard by which he ruled his environment. God had cast man away from the tree of life which is truth, love, guid-

ance and life eternal. The man fell into gross darkness, he no longer heard the voice of God; he was led by his own devices.

## SPIRIT AND SOUL

There has been much vagueness among Christians, concerning the difference between soul and spirit. Scholars know, that in the Bible, the original words for soul and spirit are not the same. "Pneuma" speaks of spirit as of the invisible but very real air we breathe, while "Psuche" speaks of the soul or the mind, intellect, emotions, consciousness of the being. The soul is the "psuche," the self, the ego. The soul answers to the desires of the flesh, while the spirit of man, the candle of the Lord, has been extinguished by the lies and lusts of the serpent. Paul urges us to "*Cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit...*" (I Cor.7:1)

## THE DIVIDING ASUNDER

*"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."* (Heb.4:12)

The word of God which is QUICK and powerful is sharper than a two-edged sword, and is able to pierce deep within and divide that which issues from the spirit from that which comes from the soul. The word "quick" here means ALIVE. It is speaking of the living Word of God that is quickened to us and gives life to our souls.

Paul urges, "*That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind.*" (Eph.4:22-23) The mind of the old man of flesh is corrupt, but we are given a new mind in Christ. It is a mind that has ears to hear the Spirit of God. "*For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.*" (I Cor.2:16)

Just as Israel of old was in bondage to Babylon, Christianity has been in bondage to Mystery Baby-

lon. Because our spiritual ears are not yet fully trained to discern the voice of God, we have often been on a fence, trying to know what is of God from what is of the flesh or the soul. We have been programmed to readily hear the loud voice of the great Impostor, while it takes patience and waiting, to hear the voice of God.

Many Christians are still unable to discern the difference between the voice of God and the voice that comes through the intellect and emotions of the soul. For that reason, it is common to believe that we hear from the Spirit, when indeed we are hearing from the voices of the soul or what is usually called the "subconscious."

When God said, "*Behold all souls are mine...* (He also said), *the soul that sinneth, it shall die.*" (Eze.18:4) "*All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.*" (Rom.3:23). The soul that is void of the light of Christ, walks "*...according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.*" (Eph.2:2)

This is the realm of fear and insecurity. In order to find peace, there needs to be a dividing asunder between soul and spirit. This cannot be accomplished by book learning; it can only be done when the sharp, quick Word of God reveals the thoughts and intents of the heart.

When we go through our first "born-again" experience, our soul realizes the darkness within, and repents. This means that we turn away from the ways of the flesh and begin to hear and follow the voice of the Great Shepherd. Later, when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit, the soul is submerged into the ways of the Spirit, and daily we learned to walk with Him. But the soul can be stiff-necked and unwilling to let go of the old ways. We might say "yes Lord" while we keep going our own ways.

The sharp, live Word of God divides asunder, or sets far apart, that which is from soul from that which is Spirit. Moreover, it divides the joints and marrow, and discerns the thoughts and intents of the heart. This is a work that has been going on in the hearts of

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those who are pressing toward the prize of God's high calling. This is the only way, one can truly discern the true source of the voices they are hearing.

David cried out to the Lord, "*Create in me a clean heart O God, and renew a right spirit within me.*" (Ps.51:10) This is the cry of our hearts too, for it is when our hearts are clean and our spirits are set aright, that we can truly discern the voice of God. The sharp, quick word of God exposes the thoughts and intents of the heart, that it may be replaced by the new heart and right spirit.

Our Lord has taken us through many fires to purify and change our hearts. This is why we can quickly recognize the voice of the impostor who still speaks to us daily. When our "pseudo-religious" ways are no longer what we seek, Satan as an "angel of light" finds no place in us.

Dreams, visions, and revelations are common vehicles that Satan uses to lead the seekers into his world of confusion. Through the soul, he sends collections of impressive symbols that mimic messages from God. This is why dreams and visions should never be interpreted by the symbols, they must be understood by the Spirit. Symbols only sow confusion and destroy the peace of the one who is in search of the truth.

Because most of the churches today cannot discern between soul and spirit, much of Christianity seeks to touch God through the senses of the soul. The soul is very emotional and sensual. Most of us have spent many hours in meetings where we "felt the Spirit" through the senses of the soul, and thought we had touched God.

We often receive revelations through our intellect which has been trained to think with the reasoning of learned men. It is common to first receive understanding of spiritual truths intellectually. We may know all about sonship and the deliverance of creation, but it is not until the Spirit of God quickens it to our consciousness, that we get a witness of the Spirit, and it becomes life in us and to us. Until this takes place, we only have the knowledge that puffeth up. (I Cor.8:1)

When the Billy Graham crusades called for sinners to come to the altar, the resonant low baritone voice of George Beverly Shea filled the stadium with the inspiring words, "*Just as I am, without one plea, but that Thy blood was shed for me...*" It was an awesome sight to witness. All we need to be saved is to believe in Jesus Christ, the Savior of our souls.

But if one is to inherit all things, one has to reach the maturity of son, by overcoming and dying daily. "*He that overcometh shall inherit all things, and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*" (Rev.21:7) Little children cannot receive their inheritance until they are grown adults. "*Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all.*" (Gal.4:1)

Our inheritance comes by spiritual maturity, which comes by daily following His Spirit and keeping the old nature on the cross. The daily cross is the way of sons. We can hear Jesus saying, "If you will be perfect, take up your cross and follow me." To be perfect is to be complete and mature in Christ.

Spiritual growth does not come by any efforts or works of the flesh. The soul who has received salvation by grace, through faith, may still be laden with the many works of self-righteousness that the church has laid upon it. Jesus gives the answer to the problem, "*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart and ye shall find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.*" (Matt.11:28-30) How we need to repeat these words to our souls, over and over again.

David felt the thirst of his soul as he wrote, "*As the hart panteth after the waterbrook, so panteth my soul after thee, O Lord.*" (Ps.42:1) Humanity has tried to fill this terrible thirst with many things. Wealth, amusement, entertainments, sports and the many excitements that this world offers have been sought to satisfy the craving within. But in the end, the pleasures of the world are only for a short season.

God in His wisdom and great love, has purposed to reveal Himself and to open the Way, the Truth and the Life to bring each man to his determined goal and thus fill the true thirsting of his soul. *“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; who will have ALL MEN to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. (I Tim.2:3-4)* Howbeit, all come through great tribulations.

Recently, during the night, I was fighting the dark thoughts of my mind. They were crowding to oppress my soul and make me wish I was dead. Spirits of infirmity were at work to bring me down to the pit of self-pity and despair. But the light of God shone through the darkness and I heard the voice of my Shepherd saying, “These words are empty words, they have no power over you.” We may hear words seeking to break us down and take away our peace and even our faith. They will try us in the night hours, but their threats have no power to bring us down.

We may still be way off the final goal of the image of the Son of God, but our Father is closer to us than ever; we can be sure that He has us covered. The old carnal mind that tries so hard to dominate, has been crucified with Christ. It is dead, and the words that it speaks to us have lost their power.

In Adam, our soul was in bondage to the prince of the power of the air, and he does not give up easily. But as David learned by experience, *“Our soul is escaped, as a bird, out of the snare of the fowler: the snare is broken, and we are escaped. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.” (Ps.124:7-8)*

### WE FAINT NOT

In Paul’s letter to the church at Corinth, he pours out his heart to encourage them in the faith. *“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us. (II Cor.4:6-7)* Paul spoke of the suffering to be endured for this treasure, *“We are troubled on*

*every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed.” (Vs.8-9) “For death worketh in us, but life in you.” (Vs.12)*

Then Paul rises up in victory as he penned these glorious words, *“For all things are for your sake, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.” (II Cor.4:16-18)*

If we glean nothing else from this publication, these verses are enough for us to digest for a long time. Everything we overcome is that God may show forth His glory in us and through us eternally. Paul was faced with much contradiction and persecution, but in the face of these, he continually reminded himself of the cause for which he fought.

Today, the outward enemies of Christians are many, yet it is for the kingdom of God within: our faith, trust in God, perseverance, endurance for the joy that is set before us, that we guard against the enemies of our soul. Paul put it all this way, *“And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” (Gal.6:9)*

Jesus, the first begotten Son, was called to conquer death and hell, that He might impart His overcoming Spirit to His firstfruits. He told us, *“In the world ye shall have tribulation but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” (Jn.16:33b)* In other words, “You will go through many trials, but do not be weary, I am giving you the same power to overcome the world.” And so He gave us His Holy Spirit. It is the Son in us who overcomes the death and hell that works in us and around us. Thank you, my Father and my God.

Because of His love, *Jackie Caporaso*