

Proclaiming The Gospel of Jesus Christ (Of both blood and body aspects)

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Synopsis

If I were *now* asked to explain the Gospel and full effect of the cross of Jesus Christ,

- * How would I explain it?
- * How would I compare it with traditional descriptions and teachings of the Gospel?

The emphasis on the word *now*, means that I now have a different view of the Gospel, that view adding to what I already knew, and completing the whole story. I must say right here that this is not some weird made up gospel – ‘some other gospel’ as Paul puts it – but simply reveals what the Bible says in full. Although I believed I knew the Gospel well, I now consider my previous view somewhat incomplete, partly in knowledge, but mostly in the full application of the cross to my life as God intended.

The title for this study - The Blood and Body Gospel – is indicative of the nature of the study. Further clues as to the use of the title can be taken from the examples of the role of the blood and body of the lamb in the Passover and in the remembrance of Christ in the eating of the bread (body) and drinking of the cup (blood) in the Lord’s supper.

I am going to contend that the blood aspect of the cross (dealing with sins), which is generally taught well in evangelical churches, is incomplete when the body aspect of the cross (dealing with

sin) is not also known, taught and lived by believers. In fact, I would contend that it is not possible to live the Christian life from the blood aspect alone, because it only addresses the issue of sins and their forgiveness and does not fully recognize the sin / body aspect on the living of the present life. This leads to all sorts of difficulties such as powerless living, self-effort and the difficulties in having and applying true biblical faith.

I want to also say at the beginning that I did not work all this out myself. Yes, I have searched for a long time, and been down many an endless path. But the Lord, after initially enlightening me Himself, has now graced my life with several others who have taught me the scriptural principles involved. Also the Holy Spirit has now graciously revealed His truth to my heart – and is still so doing. Fortunately, one of my endless paths had not been so far away from the full truth.

Even in this synopsis I must emphasize the vital and fundamental role of the Holy Spirit. In my experience it is quite impossible to understand these things at a knowing level of our spirit, without the Spirit's teaching. Intellectual knowledge alone will not and cannot make these things work in any life. It is only the Holy Spirit that can teach us and bring about the experiential knowing that is required to operate in these ways intended by God.

One caution. I have found these things to come to me in a knowing sense, only via the Holy Spirit. I believe that one may read and study such things and think we know them, but until such time as the Spirit of God reveals them, then we really do not know them. So I would suggest readers use the study to get to know the information in their mind, then seek and allow the Spirit of God to make it real in their experience. That is one of the aspects of walking by faith. I would advise against any Christian who finds the material in this study to be somewhat or partly new to them, not to attempt to use it to teach others until the Holy Spirit has taught them first.

Academic knowledge of such things is pretty useless without the revealing of it to one's heart, heart revelation being needed before one could ever teach it from their heart.

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Conclusion of basic study

- 6 6 Issues related to this study – in question and answer format

(Item 6 not yet written)

- 1 What is the nature of man? What differences are there between believers and unbelievers? Do believers have two conflicting natures?
- 2 How are God and man different given that we were created in His image? Given man's fall in Eden, how can it be said that man and God can now still have union and communion?
- 3 How does God provide real guidance to believers? How do we avoid the confusion that comes from thoughts and feelings? Relate these things to the rest mentioned in Hebrews 4.
- 4 What is real faith? In what realm does it operate? How can it be learned and implemented? How does one see beyond evil and difficulty?
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- 8 As Christians are freed from sin, do they ever actually sin?
- 9 Using Romans 14:14-25, explain how some Bible commentaries can confuse rather than enlighten?

Introduction

When the prophet Daniel was brought before King Nebuchadnezzar to interpret a dream for the King, he said to Nebuchadnezzar *A...there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets.*@ (the word **mysteries** is used in some versions)

Some 650 years later the Apostle Paul wrote of the mystery of the Gospel, one of God's most important mysteries, when he stated,

*"the **mystery** which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.**" Col. 1:26-27 (NKJV)*

Notice the nature of the mystery. **AChrist in you**@.

He then extended the explanation of the mystery by adding:

*"When **Christ who is our life** appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.*@ Col. 3:4 (NKJV)

The extended explanation is, **AChrist who is our life**@.

So this mystery has a duality. **Christ in us and Christ our life.** So Paul was saying that this Christ, whose Spirit had re-birthed us at our regeneration, was actually *in* us and *was our actual life.* We (as our old man – old self) no longer lived. Christ now lived His life in us. Other parts of scripture also indicate that the old man (our old self) was dead and that this new life of Christ was in us **AS** our new life.

Galatians 2:20 sums it up even more completely.

*"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me;** and the life which I now live in the flesh I live **by faith** in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. Gal. 2:20 (NKJV)*

So we can say that:

**By faith in Jesus, our old life is gone
and He lives in us, as our actual life!**

To many in the Christian church, from my observations, these teachings remain somewhat of a mystery. To some, these things are more or less ignored and others, whilst they might give a lip service to them in partial understanding, do not know or have not experienced the full practical effect of this teaching in their lives. Still others, whilst they might know something of the principles, have not allowed the Holy Spirit, or cooperated with Him, to bring about the spiritual changes needed. Others still may have intellectually known all the doctrine but not known what to do with it. Knowing and experiencing the ways of the Spirit in these things is essential.

The blood aspect of the cross is well known and well taught in most true evangelical churches. We are born again, regenerated, have our sins forgiven, saved from eternal death, justified before God and adopted by Him, receive eternal life, made righteous, reconciled to God, redeemed, sanctified and preserved by God.

But when it comes to being dead to sin, freed from sin, no longer slaves of sin, dead to law, our old man (old self) having been crucified with Christ, the church somehow cannot, and generally does not teach how to apply these biblical facts by faith, as well as they do those relating to being born again – the blood aspect of the cross. Consequently, it does not teach that it is possible to receive the full benefits of the cross that scripture describes. There seem to be very few men and women of faith who have known to stand on all the correct biblical facts long enough for the Spirit of God to work, to make these things known in their personal experience. True biblical faith is required to do that. The church does not seem to teach to allow for the receiving by faith of the full benefits of the cross, which are:

- not sinning habitually
- being holy and blameless in His sight,
- being alive to God through Christ Jesus,
- being sons of God,
- being led by His Spirit
- being the new creatures God intended.

Dan Stone in his book *The Rest of the Gospel*, describes the problem new believers face.

“But once we are forgiven we have to start living the life. And we ask, “How do I live this thing out? How do I get my act together? How do I keep from sinning? How do I make it work? What we discover is that the truth that we are forgiven doesn’t tell us one thing about how to live the life. It only addresses the question, “What do I do about my sins?” It has nothing to do with living the life.” (Stone p 37)

In short, because of that incompleteness, new believers are not able to fully live as though Christ is their life or that Christ is fully within them. For even though they realize that Christ, through the Holy Spirit was their regenerator by His Spirit, they do not allow for the fullness of Christ that Paul says is the mystery that has

now been revealed in New Testament times, after the death and resurrection of Christ.

In my opinion, this not allowing for or properly seeking this available fullness, has led the modern day church to generally not have the experience of the fullness of Christ, as Paul did, as evidenced by his ministry over many years. The modern evangelical church might do a reasonable job with its teachings and activities in relation to being converted, born again and the like, but as for teachings regarding Christ our life and Christ in you, there is a great lack. Hence, the life that God intended for believers is rarely seen, a factor which must sadden Him, limit successful evangelism and more importantly, have partially enabled saints trying to do God's will without the power to do so, for that is the end result of such incomplete knowledge and application.

There are many reasons why this has happened over the centuries. In my opinion, one of the major causes of this deficiency is the incorrect interpretation of Romans 7:14-25 that is taught in many churches. Romans is often referred to as the fifth gospel, yet is rarely taught. If it is not taught then how can it be lived? Paul's explanation of how to achieve the fullness he talks of in Romans 8 must be learned intellectually and experientially via some co-operation between man and Holy Spirit. To make the point in another perspective altogether, Martin Luther began the Reformation nearly 500 years ago, by his rediscovery of "the just shall live by faith". It could be argued that, to a very significant degree, the present church does not seem to teach how to operate from the fullness of faith originally intended. That is how important this issue appears to be.

The purpose of this study is to reveal what fullness of life through the cross means - and how believers might go about living that way. Believers also need to know these things when they help to birth sinners into the Kingdom of God, and provide the post conversion teaching required. In this study, we will examine both the blood aspect of the cross, but also see exactly what it means to be dead to sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus, dead to

the law and led by the Spirit of God, in what I refer to as the body aspect of the cross, where Paul tells us that the body of sin has been done away with by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1. 1. What was Paul's experience of ministering the Gospel?

In the book of Acts, Luke records many of the significant events in the life of Paul. Despite the fact that Paul experienced his share of suffering and persecution, his ministry was as successful as could be imagined. If his record in Acts, is examined it reveals how his knowledge of the Gospel and the outworking of it in his life, enabled him to do things according to the Lord's will. All that he did reveals the fullness of life that can only come from the life of Christ being resident in him, enabling him in so many marvelous ways. Examine the things he did. But first, examine the underpinnings of his ministry, those words which describe the basis for all his fullness, knowledge, wisdom and actions.

Scriptures that underpin Paul's successful and victorious ministry

1.1. 1.1. The words of Jesus.

That He had come that we (and Paul) might have life more abundantly, or as some versions put it, "have it to the full".

*"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it **more abundantly**." John 10:10 (NKJV)*

In the Greek, the words "more abundantly" Strong's 4053 Perissos means "exceedingly" "above the greatest abundance" "superabundantly". So it can be seen therefore that the promise of Jesus was for an abundance way beyond normal acceptance. (Zodhiates 1 page 1721)

1.2. 1.2. Paul's all embracing statement about his life source.

*"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me**; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." Gal. 2:20 (NKJV)*

1.3. Paul asserting both blood and body aspects of the Gospel.

Paul, when speaking to the Jews in the synagogue at Pisidian, Antioch, spoke this amazing sentence as part of his explanation. Notice that the two aspects of the cross are mentioned – forgiveness of sin (blood) and justified (or freed) from all things (body)

*"Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the **forgiveness of sins**; And by Him everyone who believes is **justified from all things** from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses." Acts 13:38-39 (NKJV)*

The NASB version says the body aspect with even more emphasis,

*"and through Him, everyone who believes **is freed from all things**, from which you could not be freed through the law of Moses." (NASB)*

Of particular interest is being freed from sin – and of law. This is a very important basis of Paul's ability to minister as he did in complete freedom, incorporating the full teaching of Romans 6-8.

Now let us move to particular examples of Paul's successful experience as an apostle. Notice the vast variety of experience and of victorious success. Each of the aspects of Paul's life are supported by scripture.

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Scriptures to do with successful or significant aspects of Paul's life.

Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit and with joy.

Acts 13:52

Paul healed.	Acts 14:9-10
Paul endured many tribulations.	Acts 14:22
Paul preached truth.	Acts 16:14
Paul exorcised evil spirits.	Acts 16:18
Paul praised God in difficult circumstances.	Acts
16:25	
Paul's life was a witness.	Acts 16:25
Paul was in control of every situation he faced.	Acts 16:31
Paul taught effectively.	Acts 17:11
Paul received personal guidance from the Lord.	Acts 18:9-
10, 23:11	
Paul performed miracles.	Acts 19:11
Paul's words convicted people of their sins.	Acts
19:18-19	
Paul brought people back to life.	Acts 20:10
Paul received words of knowledge from the Lord.	Acts 20:23
Paul sacrificed his life for the Gospel.	Acts
20:24, 21:13	
Paul suffered for the Gospel.	Acts
21:30, 21:13	
Paul was protected by God.	Acts 28:5

Paul experienced suffering and persecution. - This one is listed last, for it should be remembered that Paul also experienced suffering and persecution of the highest order. He provides many descriptions of this apparent adversity. However, there is no way that these can be seen as a negative or a detraction from all his positive results, as suffering and persecution are a part of the Lord's will for true believers and are a part of His ways in bringing about successful ministry.

Could any reader propose a more imposing list? What a record that Paul could have put on a resume! But there is much more!! Dozens of other scriptures could be found that highlight the philosophical underpinnings of Paul's beliefs and actions. The weight of the New Testament absolutely asserts that fullness of life is obtained through Christ by the indwelling of His Holy Spirit. Paul experienced this for himself, taught others and prayed for them to be established in the Kingdom.

"My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you," Gal. 4:19 (NKJV)

Truly, his knowledge, commitment and dedication were impressive. No one could argue that he was anything else but successful.

However, as will be seen in later discussion, some interpretations of Romans 7:14-25 would seem to argue against the fullness of life achievements that are listed here. However, Paul would not and could not write Romans 7 and have it conflict with the rest of Scripture. Consequently, these apparent conflicts in relation to Romans 7 that seem to differ with the rest of his positive assertions, must and do have another explanation. There simply cannot be such a contradiction in the Word of God.

2 Salvation is full and complete

Salvation by and through Jesus Christ has been provided completely, fully, and once and for all. In the Old Testament, some waited for it as did Jacob when he was dying, and Jonah when the Lord rescued him from the belly of the fish.

"I have waited for your salvation, O LORD!" Gen. 49:18 (NKJV)

"But I will sacrifice to You with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD." Jon. 2:9 (NKJV)

In the Old Testament the word salvation came from the Hebrew word Y'shuw 'ah (Strong's 3444) and means a deliverance, help or victory coming from some source outside the oppression. It has the idea of being comfortable and living with no problems. (Zodhiates 1 pp 1599)

In the New Testament, they knew from Whom salvation came, how it was obtained and its great value. Peter explained from

Whom it came, Paul told Timothy that salvation came through faith and the writer to the Hebrews outlined its great value.

*“Nor is there salvation in any other, for **there is no other name under heaven** given among men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12 (NKJV)*

*“..and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for **salvation through faith** which is in Christ Jesus.” 2 Tim. 3:15 (NKJV)*

*“...how shall we escape if we neglect **so great a salvation**, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, Heb. 2:3 (NKJV)*

In the New Testament, the word salvation comes from the Greek noun Soteria (Strong's 4991) and has a range of meanings, which include:

- □ Deliverance from sin and its spiritual consequences.
- □ Being attached to the body of Christ.
- □ Admission to eternal life in the Kingdom of God – both now and future.
- □ Freedom from sin as a present power.
- □ Deliverance from the pollution of sin itself.
- □ The believer's union with Christ.
- □ The believer becoming a new creature.
- □ Being reconciled to God.
- □ Entering a new spiritual life of righteousness, peace and joy . (Zodhiates 2 pp 1360-1362)

To understand the full meaning of the word, the use of the verb for salvation (sozo – Strong's 4982) is useful. To save – to sozo – means to:

- □ Be delivered, make whole and preserve, in terms of both physical and spiritual life.
- □ Be delivered from eternal death, sin, punishment and misery.
- □ Receive a spiritual life of a new nature from God.
- □ Be freed from the power of sin (even whilst enduring its presence on earth). Zodiates 2 pp 1353-1356)

From the explanation of these Hebrew and Greek words we can see that salvation is something that is very complete – there is nothing missing – everything has been provided. So, if everything has been provided, then why do we not see Christians living in this fullness, instead of making it such the struggle it appears to be. Has God slipped up? Or have we?

So let us now look in detail at all that the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ provided for mankind. Firstly, let us look at the familiar aspect, the blood aspect of the cross, where our sins are forgiven and we receive the promise of eternal life.

3 The blood aspect of the cross.

The most well known and taught gospel sermon or teaching deals with the blood aspect of the cross. The chart following summarizes all the aspects of what the Bible teaches about these things.

<p>What happens to the repentant sinner <u>Forgiveness of sins</u> (This is from the blood aspect of cross) Long term viewpoint - eternal life from now into eternity.</p>	
<p>We are saved from eternal death by Jesus</p>	<p>Acts 4:10-12, Matt 1:21, 1 Thess 5:9</p>

We are regenerated	Titus 3: 5-6
We are born again	John 3:3, 1 John 5:1, 1 Peter 1:23
We receive eternal life	John 3:15-16, John 3:36
We are made righteous	Phil 3:7-9
Our soul is converted.	Matt 18:3, 2 Corinthians 5:17 Acts 3:19-20, James 5:20,
We are adopted by God	Gal 4:4-5, John 1:12
We are reconciled to God	Eph 2:16, Rom 5:10-11, Col 1:20-22
Our sins are forgiven	Acts 10:43, Hebrews 9:22
We are justified before God	Romans 5:1
We are set apart for God - sanctified.	1 Thess 4:3, 1 Cor 1:2
We are redeemed by God	1 Peter 1:18-19, Gal 3:13
We are preserved by God	1 Thess 5:23, Jude 1
Later, we will be glorified	1 Cor 15:51-52, Romans 8:30

3.1. Explanation of the blood aspect of the cross.

We will deal with each of these of these aspects of the blood aspect of the cross, by asking a range of questions, which will

then be answered in terms of the scriptures provided. This aspect of the cross makes provision for our sins. (plural)

3.1.1. Who saves us – and from what?

*“let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that **by the name of Jesus** Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole.Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:10, 12 (NKJV)*

*“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name **JESUS**, for He will save His people from their sins.” Matt. 1:21 (NKJV)*

*“For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our **Lord Jesus Christ**....”1 Thess. 5:9 (NKJV)*

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Jesus Christ is the One who saves and that He will save us from our sins if we repent and believe in what Jesus has done for us.

3.1.2. 3.1.2. What is the process by which we are saved?

*“not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the **washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit**, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, Titus 3:5-6 (NKJV)*

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Our salvation comes through the Holy Spirit, by His washing of us in a process called regeneration. We are made new. As scripture says elsewhere –
The old has gone and the new has come.
Notice also that it is not our own works that save us,
but His regeneration based on His mercy.

3.1.3. 3.1.3. What do we call this new state?

*“Jesus answered and said to him, **“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”** John 3:3 (NKJV)*

*–
“Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is **born of God**, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.” 1 John 5:1 (NKJV)*

*“ having been **born again**, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever...” 1 Pet. 1:23 (NKJV)*

It is called being born again, but notice also – born of God.

3.1.4. 3.1.4. What are our future prospects?

*“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should **not perish but have everlasting life**.” John 3:16 (NKJV)*

*“that whoever believes in Him should **not perish but have eternal life**.” John 3:15 (NKJV)*

*“He who believes in the Son has **everlasting life**; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” John 3:36 (NKJV)*

We now have everlasting or eternal life.

3.1.5. 3.1.5. What is our new state and outlook on life?

*“But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed **I also count all things loss** for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom **I have suffered the loss of all things**, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but*

that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith..." Phil. 3:7-9 (NKJV)

Our new state is that we have righteousness from God.
Our new outlook on life is that we now view knowing Christ
as being more important than anything else in life.

3.1.6. 3.1.6. What is the new state of our soul?

"and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 18:3 (NKJV)

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17

"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord..." Acts 3:19 (NKJV)

"let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins." James 5:20 (NKJV)

Our soul has been saved from eternal death, by being renewed
(or converted).

Because of this, our sins are blotted out and we are refreshed.

3.1.7. 3.1.7. Who do we belong to now?

"But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. Gal. 4:4-5 (NKJV)

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” John 1:12-13 (NKJV)

We are now sons of the living God – and children of God.

3.1.8. 3.1.8. What is the status of our relationship with God

“..and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.” Eph. 2:16 (NKJV)

“For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.” Rom. 5:10-11 (NKJV)

“...and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight” Col. 1:20-22 (NKJV)

We are now reconciled with God, Who considers us holy and blameless.

3.1.9. What is the status of our former sins?

“To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.” Acts 10:43 (NKJV)

“And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.” Heb. 9:22 (NKJV)

Our sins are remitted (forgiven) because of the payment of
Christ's shed blood.

We are purified by His shed blood.

3.1.10. 3.1.10. What is our standing before God?

"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, Rom. 5:1 (NKJV)

We are justified before God, just as if we had never sinned.

3.1.11. 3.1.11. What else have we received?

*"For this is the will of God, **your sanctification**: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; 1 Thess. 4:3 (NKJV)*

*"To the church of God which is at Corinth, to **those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints**, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours" 1 Cor. 1:2 (NKJV)*

We are sanctified or set apart for God's purposes, called to be
saints of God.

3.1.12. How did we come to belong to God?

*"knowing that you were not **redeemed** with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your father, but **with the precious blood of Christ**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." 1 Pet. 1:18-19 (NKJV)*

*"**Christ has redeemed us** from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree")" (Gal. 3:13 (NKJV)*

We were redeemed or purchased by God,
redemption being possible because He shed His blood for us.

We were redeemed from our sinful conduct and from the curse of the law.

3.1.13. 3.1.13. Who now looks after us?

*"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be **preserved blameless** at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."
" 1 Thess. 5:23 (NKJV)*

*"Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James,
To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and **preserved in Jesus Christ:** (Jude 1:1 (NKJV)*

We are preserved by the trinity.

3.1.14. What shall be our final state?

*"Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead **will be raised incorruptible**, and we shall be changed."
1 Cor. 15:51-52 (NKJV)*

*"Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, **these He also glorified.**" Rom. 8:30 (NKJV)*

We will be raised incorruptible and will be glorified.

Let us now summarize all these aspects of benefit of Christ shedding His blood.

3.2. 3.2. How the believer benefits from the blood aspect of the cross – a summary

- Jesus Christ is the One who saves. He will save us from our sins.
- Our salvation comes via the Holy Spirit, by His washing of us in a process called regeneration. We are made new.

The old has gone and the new has come. Notice also that it is not our own works that save us, but His regeneration based on His mercy.

- Our new state is being born again, also referred to as born of God.
- We shall now have everlasting (eternal) life.
- Our new moral state is that we now have righteousness from God. Our new outlook on life is that we now view knowing Christ as more important than anything else in life.
- Our soul has been saved from eternal death, by being renewed or converted. Because of this our sins are blotted out and we are refreshed.
- We are now sons of the living God – and children of God.
- We are now reconciled with God, Who considers us holy and blameless.
- Our sins are remitted or forgiven because of the payment of Christ's shed blood.
We have been purified by His shed blood.
- We are justified before God, just as if we had never sinned.
- We are sanctified (or set apart) for God's purposes, called to be saints of God.
- We are redeemed (or purchased) by God, the redemption being possible because He shed His blood for us. We were redeemed from our sinful conduct and from the curse of the law.
- We are preserved by the trinity.
- We will be raised incorruptible and will be glorified.

All this can be received by faith in the Son of God – Jesus Christ.

What a wonderful summary of the incredible benefit for the sinner who repents and believes in Jesus Christ – and this is only a part of the story.

3.3. Comments on the blood aspect of the cross

True evangelical believers would have little trouble in recognizing and accepting all these elements as relating to the (familiar)

blood aspect of the cross. However, for some believers it might represent the entire gospel of Jesus Christ.

Remember, at the beginning of this study, I asked the question:

If I were *now* asked to explain the Gospel and full effect of the cross of Jesus Christ,

- * How would I explain it?
- * How would I compare it with traditional descriptions and teachings of the Gospel?

How would I explain it? Those details are still to come in later parts of this study.

How would I compare it to traditional descriptions and teachings of the Gospel can now begin to be answered. To many, the blood aspect of the cross is all they have been taught and all they know. What I have provided here in (3.1) is the traditional description and teaching of the cross. It is terrific and wonderful news – the good news of the Gospel. Without this aspect of the cross, people would not know and understand that their sins have been forgiven and that they have received eternal life. However, if that is all they know and experience, they will never know the fullness of life experience and freedom that is possible through Christ.

Can I suggest you look back over the benefits of the blood aspect of the cross and see which ones of them, if any, actually help you live the life without sin dogging you. If they were all you had, then consider what protection you would have against sin – and sinning? I believe that the Lord had far more in mind than just reconciling with a previously lost sinner, bringing him into newness of life and all the other things mentioned in 3.1. The Lord also made provision to have our old life crucified (at the cross) and replaced with a new life (coming from the body aspect of the cross). Although the blood aspect of the cross provides the initial benefits of this type, especially in regeneration and in forgiveness of sin, this is quite inadequate in order to receive the

fullness of the power of the life of the risen Lord for our life here on earth.

My own experience as a Christian had me wondering if I could be doing anything wrong when my relatively ordered life and confession according to 1 John 1:9 did not seem to bring the fullness of life and peace that other parts of scripture suggested should be the norm for the believer. It was not until a friend took me through Romans 6, some 15 years ago and showed me that when Christ died, we also died, and that since my conversion the Bible actually said I had been freed from sin. That knowledge in itself, although it stood me in good stead was insufficient to bring the fullness promised, and for me, some level of frustration still existed until these present studies began, although I can now see how the Lord has been continually revealing these truths to me. When I started to consider the things in this study, my heart leapt because it understood, even though intellectual understanding took much longer. It would be my suggestion that you remember that for yourself, for God needs time to make these things understandable to our human minds, through our spirits.

I have also observed many friends and acquaintances who, despite their best and wonderful efforts always seem to fall short of what they think should be possible. Some in fact think they are failures, even to the extent of doubting their salvation. So I believe these truths are something really special and worth the time and effort to persevere until the Lord reveals the truth.

3.4. 3.4. Faith! The application of it to this blood aspect of the cross

How does one gain the advantage of the blood aspect of the cross? By faith! Do you remember when you first believed and trusted in the promises of God that said that if you repented of your sin and believed in what Jesus Christ had done for you, you would be saved? To be born again, this is all you have to do – repent and believe. Regeneration is not available if you do not repent or if you do not believe, or if you do not trust in what God

has said in His Word. Jesus said that without faith we get nothing. So, simple faith is what is needed to receive full benefit from this aspect of the cross. However, Paul says that this simple faith needs to be expressed from our mouth, as an indication of our belief in what Christ has done for us to make our salvation possible. He advises us in the following verses.

*“if you **confess with your mouth** the Lord Jesus and **believe in your heart** that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For **with the heart one believes** unto righteousness, and **with the mouth confession is made** unto salvation.” Rom. 10:9-10 (NKJV)*

Without these words or expressions of faith, nothing happens. The Spirit of God has convicted us of our sin, we have heard the promises of God that He will forgive if we repent of our sins and we are desperate for the salvation He offers. So to escape the wrath of God and receive His forgiveness, we confess from our mouth the beliefs of our heart and we receive His salvation.

However, my own experience and the experience of most new believers making a confession of faith is that they are only aware of the confessing of their sins (in particular the sin of not previously knowing and accepting Jesus as their Lord and Saviour) and being free from the guilt of their sin, and experiencing that as an emotional freedom emanating from the spiritual realm. They normally still know nothing of the freedom from their (future) sin or from the law, nor of being led by the Spirit of God. Many in fact make a new law out of the considerable guidance given in the New Testament as to how to live the Christian life, trying to use the ink words on the page – to live by those words – which results in self effort, rather than the Spirit of God within to control their life. Sometimes 1 John 1:9 is (correctly) provided and taught as a key verse from which future relief can be gained by confession of any sinful behaviour that might occur in their life. This is correct teaching but quite incomplete, as later parts of this study will reveal.

As faith is the key to opening up these truths, there will be much more discussion on it later in the study after the body aspect of the cross has been introduced and explained. Faith is perhaps even more important in dealing with the body aspect of the cross.

4. 4. The body aspect of the cross

We now move to the more difficult, less known and less understood part of scripture, which I am referring to as the body aspect of the cross.

In some circles this would be quite controversial. However, I am not concerned about that for as all this information is in scripture, it must be there for good doctrinal and practical reasons, even though some divisions of Christendom and some of the Christian "ism's" and traditions might disagree, that is between them and the Lord.

I recognize that it is a difficult thing to be confronted with doctrines which go against what one has been taught and has practised for many a year. I have twice experienced major changes in doctrine, which at initial hearing of them, I scoffed and did not see the point of even looking at them. That is a major problem for anyone who believes they know it all. Only God knows it all and we should be like the Bereans and see what the Bible says about these things. Temporarily at least, we should put aside our traditions and "ism's that might prevent us from finding out real truth.

Consequently, don't believe a word of what you see here in this study. Having been guided into these ideas, go to the Bible, and then to the Spirit of God over a long period, to see if these things are true. For my part I took nearly a year to get to an initial acceptance of them and am continuing in study and following the guidance of the Lord Who wrote all the relevant scriptures

through His Spirit. All readers should consider these things carefully.

<p style="text-align: center;">How the Lord enables us to live for Him <u>Freedom from sin</u> (This is from the body aspect of the cross) Short term viewpoint - living in fullness here on earth</p>	
We are dead to sin. We are no longer slaves to sin.	Romans 6:2 and 6:11 Romans 6:18, Romans 8:15
We have been freed from sin. Sin shall not be master over us.	Romans 6:7 Romans 6:14
We do not sin habitually. If we do sin it can be confessed.	1 John 3:6, 9, 5:18 1 John 1:8-9.
Our old man (old self) has been crucified with Christ.	Romans 6:6, Gal 5:24 2 Corinthians 5:17
Our body of sin has been done away with.	Romans 6:6
We are holy and blameless in his sight.	Ephesians 1:4
We are alive to God through Christ Jesus.	Romans 6: 11, Romans 8:11
We are slaves to righteousness and to God.	Romans 6:18, Romans 6:22
We are dead to the law. We are not under law but under grace.	Romans 7:6 Romans 6:14

We are free from the law of sin & death. We live by the Spirit of life.	Romans 8:2
We are sons of God and led by His Spirit.	Romans 8:14
Christ lives in us. Christ is our life.	Colossians 1:27, 3:4 Galations 2:20

4.1 4.1 Explanation of the body aspect of the cross

We will now deal with this most important and vital part of this study, by asking another range of questions which will then be answered in terms of the scriptures provided. This aspect of the cross makes provision for sin. (singular) This is quite different to the blood aspect of the cross which dealt with our sins. (plural)

4.1.1. 4.1.1. What provision has God made for sin to be overcome?

".....How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?" Rom. 6:2 (NKJV)

"Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Rom. 6:11 (NKJV)

"And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness." Rom. 6:18 (NKJV)

"For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.'" Rom. 8:15 (NKJV)

He has set us free from sin, by having us die to it with Jesus on the cross.

He has given us His Spirit to use to rule our lives.

4.1.2. 4.1.2. What relationship do we now have to sin?

"For he who has died has been freed from sin. Rom. 6:7 (NKJV)

"For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. Rom. 6:14 (NKJV)

-

**We are freed from it. Sin cannot have dominion over us.
We live in God's grace.**

4.1.3. 4.1.3. Do we still sin?

"Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him." 1 John 3:6 (NKJV)

"Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God." 1 John 3:9 (NKJV)

"We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him." 1 John 5:18 (NKJV)

-

However, if we do sin incidentally, God has made provision

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:8-9 (NKJV)

-

**Christians do not sin habitually – as we are dead to it.
However if we do incidentally sin we can confess it
to receive forgiveness and cleansing.**

4.1.4. What has happened to our old man (old self)? What takes his place?

-

“...knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. ” Rom. 6:6 (NKJV)

“And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ” Gal. 5:24 (NKJV)

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” 2 Cor. 5:17 (NKJV)

Our old man (old nature – old self – our flesh) was crucified with Christ.

We are created anew by God.

A necessary diversion into the meaning of some Greek words.

Care has to be taken with some of the words in these last few verses, otherwise wrong interpretations of words can emerge and cause misunderstanding, which can mislead as to what is being said. The words “old man” are a case in point. In some Bibles these words appear as “old self”. Have you heard of the terminology “dying to self”? As you will see both here and later on in this study, these words have been known to cause confusion. If our old man (or old self) is dead, then how can there be any more dying to self as some propose? More on this later. Here are the meanings of these words from the Greek.

Old, from the Greek palaios, Strongs 3820. Old here means, “the sinful and unregenerate self previous to salvation. (standing in contrast to Kainos, meaning qualitatively new, regenerate man. (Zodhiates 1 pp 1090)

Man, from the Greek anthropos, Strong’s 444. Man here means, “a human person with human infirmity and imperfection, when contrasted with God. The **old man** means man with the former un-renewed disposition of heart. (Zodhiates 1 pp 180)

In Bibles where the word **self** is used instead of **man**, the meaning is still the same. Our old man or old self is dead, crucified on the cross with Christ. When we are regenerated we immediately have the benefit of our old man (old self) being dead. No more dying to self is either required or is possible.

Please Note! The word “self” is not a common biblical word in the original Greek. I have done some research with my King James Bible resources, which is the only Bible where I have all the Greek derivations. In the KJV NT the word self is only used 5 times and never in relation to the “old man” as usage in modern bibles tends to be. These 5 usages are in John 5:30, John 17:5, 1 Corinthians 4:3, Philemon 1:19 and 1 Peter 2:24. In those verses the range of Greek words is only three. The words are Strong’s 4572 seautou (a reflexive pronoun), Strong’s 1683 emautou (reflexive pronoun), Strong’s 848 hautou . All these word meanings seem to be along the lines of – of thyself, to thyself, myself, to myself, of myself, himself, herself, itself. (Zodhiates 2 pp 1283, 573, 294)

Never do they relate to being the state of that self, whether unregenerate, or newly regenerate as the original words used “old man” do so state. It would appear that most modern translations (NKJV excepted) may well have changed the meaning of the text by using the word “self”. In common usage the word self is a noun, which not only changes the word form from the original Greek, but also the meaning. One can easily see the confusion and misinterpretation that has resulted.

Flesh, from the Greek sarx, Strong’s 4561. Sarx is derived from sarkikos 4559, meaning fleshly, pertaining to flesh, carnal, sensual, with proneness to satisfy the desires of the flesh. Flesh (4561) here implies sinfulness, proneness to sin, the seat of carnal appetites and desires, of sinful passions and affections whether physical or moral. (Zodhiates 1 pp 1280)

More on flesh. Earle adds to this description of sarx. “Paul uses the word sarx in two distinct ways. He uses it as a classical Greek word where it refers to flesh in the sense of the physical

body. However, sarx is not synonymous with soma (physical body) From the very context it is obvious that Paul does not mean the physical body in this verse of Romans 6:6." Its other very significant use by Paul (says Earle) is that, "the *flesh* would seem to be interchangeable with the *old man*." That last statement is most significant because if we look at old man in Romans 6:6 and flesh in Galatians 5:24 we will notice that they are both referred to as having been crucified. So our old man (unregenerate imperfect man), and our flesh (sarx) are one and the same thing. (Earle pp 170)

Body (of sin), from the Greek soma, Strong's 4983, here means, "believers physical body before salvation, possessed or dominated and controlled by the sinful nature. In simpler terms, the "body of sin" means the sinful nature. Theologians mostly do not allow for this body of sin to be destroyed, but that the believer is delivered from its power, whilst at the same time, the nature itself is left in him permanently. So for the body of sin "to be done away with" renders it idle, inactive, inoperative, reduced to a position of absolute impotence....as if it were dead Where the word destroyed is used instead of "done away with", it is not the body that is destroyed but the body as the seat of sin. (Earle pp 166)

The study of other Greek words and their meaning will be added as they are found to be useful to understanding these things.

4.1.5. 4.1.5. What happened to our body of sin?

"...knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. " Rom. 6:6 (NKJV)

We cannot now be slaves to sin, as our body of sin has been done away with.

See discussion above in 4.1.4 for full discussion on this body of sin and what happened to it.

4.1.6. 4.1.6. How does God now view us?

"..just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love..." Eph. 1:4 (NKJV)

God now sees us as holy and blameless before him.....in love.

4.1.7. 4.1.7. Who is the source of our new life?

"Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Rom. 6:11 (NKJV)

"But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.: Rom. 8:11 (NKJV)

- We are now alive to God through receiving the Spirit of God.

- 4.1.8. 4.1.8. To whom are we now slaves?

"And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness." Rom. 6:18 (NKJV)

"But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life." Rom. 6:22 (NKJV)

Having been set free from the law of sin and death we can now consider ourselves slaves (servants) of God.

4.1.9. 4.1.9. What is our relationship to the law?

"But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the

*newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.”
Rom. 7:6 (NKJV)*

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*“For sin shall not have dominion over you, for **you are not under law** but under grace.” Rom. 6:14 (NKJV)*

**We have been delivered from the law.
The law has dominion over us no more.**

—
4.1.10. What is our new relationship to death?

*“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has **made me free from the law of sin and death.**” Rom. 8:2 (NKJV)*

—
**Christ defeated death, so we share with Him in freedom from it.
We will be resurrected.**

4.1.11 .Who are we and who leads us?

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is **a new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” 2 Cor. 5:17 (NKJV)*

*“For as many as are **led by the Spirit of God**, these are **sons of God.**” Rom. 8:14 (NKJV)*

We are new creations, sons of God and led by His Spirit.

4.1.12. Who is the source of our life?

*“I have been crucified with Christ; **it is no longer I who live**, but **Christ lives in me**; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live **by faith in the Son of God**, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Gal. 2:20 (NKJV)*

*“To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory.” Col. 1:27 (NKJV)*

“When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.” Col. 3:4 (NKJV)

**We no longer live. Christ lives in us. Christ is our life.
All this by our faith in the Son of God.**

Let us now summarize all these aspects whereby we benefit from the dying of the body of Christ.

4.2. 4.2. How the believer benefits from the body aspect of the cross – a summary

- He has set us free from sin, by having us die with Jesus on the cross.
- He has given us His Spirit to use to rule our lives.
- We are freed from sin. Sin cannot have dominion over us.
- We live in God’s grace.
- Christians do not sin habitually – as we are dead to it.
- However, if we do incidentally sin we can confess it and receive cleansing.
- Our old man (old nature – old self – our flesh) was crucified with Christ.
- We are created anew by God.
- We cannot now be slaves to sin, as our body of sin has been done away with.
- God now sees us as holy and blameless before him.....in love.
- We are now alive to God through receiving the Spirit of God.
- Having been set free from the law of sin and death we can now consider ourselves slaves (servants) of God.
- We have been delivered from the law and the law has dominion over us no more.
- Christ defeated death, so we share with Him in freedom from it. We will be resurrected.
- We are new creations, sons of God and led by His Spirit.
- We no longer live. Christ lives in us. Christ is our life.

**All this can be received by faith
in the Son of God – Jesus Christ.**

4.3. 4.3. Comments on the body aspect of the cross

The incredible benefits derived from the blood aspect of the cross listed earlier in 3.1 are quite profound, as they change the status of a sinner to a saint, providing regeneration, eternal life and salvation from eternal death, amongst many other wonderful benefits as the sinner becomes a son of the living God. This has enabled sinners to cross over from death to life, to change from the power of Satan to the power of God and receive forgiveness of sins. Moreover, they have changed from children of wrath, to children of God, from being sons of disobedience to obedient children. Wonderful incredible benefits which humankind could never achieve without God!

But now we have something at least as great. We have freedom from sin. Imagine it! And why don't we sin habitually? Because we are dead to it! We no longer have inbuilt mechanisms with the propensity to sin habitually. We are dead to sin because our old man was crucified with Christ. We have been dead to sin since we were born again and took on board the full benefits of the cross of Christ. If we do sin incidentally, we are cleansed by our confession. Not only is the negative gone but we also have the positive. We are now alive to God through Christ Jesus having received the Spirit of God in all His fullness. So we are new creations, with Christ living in us. Christ is now our life. We no longer live, but Christ lives in us. Not only that, but we are also freed from the dictates of the law and are led in our lives by the Holy Spirit of God.

What began with the cleansing of the blood of Christ to receive forgiveness, reconciliation and eternal life, now includes the replacement life of Christ to exclude habitual sin from us. We received what we needed to begin the Christian life but also to receive the changed conditions in our beings that make it possible to live the life on earth as Christ intended. Without receiving the benefits of the body aspect of the cross, we do not

have the power to live the life for which God provided. This body aspect of the cross was a significant part of the total package all Christians need to live in the fullness that scripture describes.

4.4. 4.4. The application of faith to this body aspect of the cross

Do you remember how we said one gains the benefits of the blood aspect of the cross? By faith! Simple faith was what was needed to receive full benefit from that aspect of the cross. So too with this body aspect of the cross. It is by faith that the complete benefits of (4.2) are received from the Lord as He does His work in response to our standing in faith that these things are true, despite our apparent overt inability to be the way that scripture says – dead to sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.

A reminder is needed here that full salvation is the result of the shedding of Christ's blood, BUT ALSO OF His body death. Salvation is not just being regenerated and receiving eternal life. It also means being enabled to live the fullness on earth. Many, if not most descriptions and teachings about salvation do not include this - with disastrous consequences. People are not taught about the body aspect of the cross and how to act in faith on those beliefs - that freedom from sin and law are possible. We need to know that in order to really get to know what the Christian life is all about. Without this knowledge, they become quite content with the limited version of provision of fullness of life and going to heaven.

Scripture is quite clear that we should reign in life on earth in all its fullness.

*“For if by the one man’s offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness **will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.**” Rom. 5:17 (NKJV)*

We cannot reign in life until the Lord has brought His own death and resurrection life into our own beings, by the power that only He has. We are saved by His life. We first need to know this and then wait in faith as the Lord applies it to our life. If we don't know it in our spirits, we cannot wait in faith.

"For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life." Rom. 5:10 (NKJV)

Not only are we saved by His life, He is our life. Our old life has gone and His life has replaced ours.

"When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.@ Col. 3:4 (NKJV)

-
The life of Christ Himself is now within us as our very life. For us to live is Christ as Philippians says.

-
"For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Phil. 1:21 (NKJV)

Without the full realization and acceptance of the life of Christ within us, we cannot live in fullness of life on earth. This must be and can only be achieved by faith in what Christ has done. We mentioned earlier that it was confession of faith by our words that brought salvation to us by the grace of God. All believers have experienced that in some form or another. Remember the verses from Romans!

"if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Rom. 10:9-10 (NKJV)

If I were now called upon to humanly assist to lead someone to the Lord by making a confession of faith, I would now teach and advise them to include confessions of belief in relation to them being dead to sin, alive to God through Christ Jesus, dead to law and being led of the Spirit of God.

We could add for example:

I am dead to sin.

I am alive to God through Christ Jesus.

I am dead to the law.

I am a son of God and led by the Spirit of God.

For present day believers who have never known these things and never confessed them in faith, this can be done at any time. However, you should know that the Lord is the only judge of how and when He brings about a manifestation of the witness of these truths in our lives. Norman Grubb once told the story that after his wife and he had made their confession of these things on the body aspect of the cross, it took two years before he had the witness of the Spirit that God had acted. His wife however, received this witness of the Spirit in just two weeks. Others with whom I have contact, also tell of various lengths of time, some of them telling of many years before "the penny dropped".

My own experience may be of interest. About two years ago, after many years of study (not perfectly directed) on the cross and its full meaning to Christianity, I came across what I now see as well themed and directed teaching on Romans 5-8 as well as single verses in Paul's other writings – Galatians 2:20, Colossians 1:26-27, 3:4 and related verses, all these being included in this study. I knew immediately that it was true, even though I did not yet understand it intellectually. That took many months of intensive study with help from others who had walked down that path before me. Gradually, almost imperceptibly, truth about previously obscure bible verses began to emerge. Suddenly I realized that the Holy Spirit had indeed taught me just more pieces of truth. And so the fullness of truth built and began to be just a normal part of life. I need to be aware of always affirming

my faith for current things and any new direction. That is all any one of us has to do. Faith is the doorway. God does the rest.

The witness of the Spirit does come as promised. The Bible teaches that the witness of the Spirit comes for the simple basics of the faith, such as:

*"If we receive the witness of men, **the witness of God is greater**; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son." He who believes in the Son of God **has the witness in himself**.. And this is the testimony: that **God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son**. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life." 1 John 5:9-12 (NKJV)*

*"The Spirit Himself **bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God**.." Rom. 8:16 (NKJV)*

*"...the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that **eternal life** which was with the Father and **was manifested to us**." 1 John 1:2 (NKJV)*

Just as the witness of the Spirit comes for these simpler things in relation to the blood aspect of the cross, so it also comes with the deeper things of the body aspect of the cross. We get to learn to see that we do not sin habitually and that the Lord has indeed brought to death some aspects of earlier poor behaviour. We did not know that before – now we do! Also, that we do not need to slavishly follow laws and traditions, for the Spirit Himself provides far better and more accurate guidance as to what we should be doing day by day, even hour by hour, or in lesser periods of God's time.

Although I am much stronger in faith at this time, I can still sometimes fall back into unbelief or fear for short periods of time, until either the Lord sovereignly delivers me out of it, or I remind myself of Who the Lord is, and what He has done for me, and for everyone who chooses to believe these things. So far, it

has been the most powerful and meaningful experience of my life and will continue to be so, as I live, write, teach and intercede for others to whom the Lord directs my attention.

Something more needs to be said about this process where the Lord responds to our faith, whilst also, in His sovereignty, bringing about circumstances where our faith is put to the test. Walking in real faith is a very active process, which brings all forms of changes and surprises in life, some pleasing and some we would prefer had not happened, especially if we think something that is happening is really someone else's fault. Normally not so! Normally it is something brought by the Lord for proving that our old self, our old man, is in fact dead and that we can respond from the life of Jesus in us. This is a new and unique experience for many of us.

One of the key verses for understanding this process is Paul's statement about his own experience in gaining and knowing Christ. He said:

"Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ, and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. " Phil. 3:8-12 (NKJV)

Notice that he said he suffered the loss of all things in order to gain Christ, through faith in Him. The loss of all things comes in various forms, through unjust persecution, through deprivation, through actual loss (both temporary and/or permanent) of some of life's privileges or normalities, which one would not expect to

be affected in a Christ lived life. Not so! And if scriptures are examined it is easy to find many examples of the suffering of the saints in order for Christ to allow His death in them to work life in others. Knowing Christ and living His life in and through us is serious business. The Lord, whilst maintaining His love and grace, is lovingly relentless in bringing a willing participant into fullness of life – His way – and not some man-centered pseudo Christian way, of which there are and have always been many.

5 5 How can this be applied to my life?

When I had reached this stage of my near final draft I asked a friend who was also learning these things if he would review the study to see if it was understandable. He said it was and then asked a most significant question: “What difference in normal life does knowing / believing in the body aspect make? I feel their needs to be an application base.”

I had been going to write in the “how to” in later parts of the study, but saw immediately that it was relevant right here. As a teacher, I should have known that to just present the doctrine, as complete as I could make it, is quite inadequate, as we all need to know how to apply doctrine to our lives.

So, how can these scriptures about the death and resurrection of Christ be applied to my life? Let me provide a short answer before the detailed answer to come. **It is simply by faith!** We need to believe that each of these scriptures are true about ourselves and that if we confess our belief in them and maintain that belief, the Lord will make it true in us and for us.

5.1. The Holy Spirit is the guide and teacher

The first thing to say is that the Holy Spirit needs to reveal the truth of all that I have written here before it is relevant or useful. This is not a mind or academic exercise. The Spirit will teach these things to each individual in a way uniquely applicable to that person. The Spirit of God knows our hearts, strengths, weaknesses, knowledge, and wisdom and can fashion His

teaching to a way in which He knows we will take notice and learn. Because of our individual natures, the Spirit of God knows there is no single way.

So, the Holy Spirit is the teacher and guide in our lives regarding how these things develop in our lives. This study is not the teacher, nor is the writer. The Holy Spirit alone will teach these things. Without Him, anything learned is useless in practical application.

There are however, a number of useful pointers that can be made about the application of these principles to our lives. Descriptions of these follow.

5.2. 5.2. A basic principle

Christianity has one great principle of operation. Anything we receive must be received by faith. Without true faith we get nothing. Jesus made it very clear in these two verses.

*“Then He touched their eyes, saying, **“According to your faith let it be to you.”** Matt. 9:29 (NKJV) (faith being Strongs 4102 – pistis)*

-
We receive according to the level or degree of our faith. If we do not have faith we get nothing. If we have faith we can ask and expect to receive.

*“Jesus said to him, **“If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”** Mark 9:23 (NKJV)*

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Anything and everything is possible if we have faith. Notice also in the following verse that faith in God is the one primary obedience of scripture. It is the obedience of faith. To be obedient to God we must live by faith.

-
“but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment

of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith..”Rom. 16:26 (NKJV)

-
The King James version below supplies the better statement about faith – the obedience of faith, not obedience to THE faith as per NKJV

-
“But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:” Rom. 16:26 (KJV)

-
Finally, we cannot please God if we do not have faith, as the following verse reminds us.

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Heb. 11:6 (NKJV)

-
So, faith is absolutely necessary in all stages of the Christian life.

In principle, faith is simple in application. As already noted, when we believe and repent in God in order to be regenerate, or born again, receiving the benefit of the blood aspect of the cross, we make that act of commitment in faith, because God has said He will receive those that come to Him in repentance and belief.

Likewise, that same faith needs to be exercised in order to receive the benefits of the body aspect of the cross. However, my own experience, and it seems to me also the experience of much of the Christian church, that receiving the benefits of the body aspect of the cross through faith is far more difficult, if indeed it is recognized at all, such are the confusions associated with this aspect of scripture.

5.3. 5.3. The changes are huge - God needs time – we need faith

Let us take four of the main changes to our lives that the death and resurrection of Christ makes possible. The Bible says :

- We are dead to sin
- We are alive to God through Christ Jesus
- We are dead to the law
- We are led by the Spirit of God.

Please note. I have just used these four important doctrinal points as examples. There are dozens of other points which are just as important, and the same principles should also be applied to them.

When we first believe, can you imagine a bigger change in life? Yesterday we were sinners and acting in sinful ways. Alive to sin, dead to God, alive to law and led by our Satanic sinful selves. Today, we are regenerate with the Spirit of God operating in our heart.

Not yet knowing much about these things.....

Do we sometimes still sin?	Yes.
Does that confuse us?	Yes
Are we absolutely sure we are alive to God through Christ Jesus?	
No	
Are we able to set aside rules and traditions of man and church?	
No	
Do we really fully know that the Spirit of God will show us the way?	No
Does it all feel pretty confusing?	
Sometimes	

This is easier to understand if we realize that we are dealing here with the perspectives of two different realms, one visible and another unseen. In the unseen realm – in the heavenly realm, from the moment of our regeneration we are dead to sin, alive to God, dead to law, and led by the Spirit. That is God’s perception of us. As far as we see ourselves, we are still struggling sinners,

confused and not sure who is leading who. So who are we going to choose to believe? On God and what He says? Or are we going to rely on ourselves and what we think and feel?

In my own experience most people tend to believe on what they think and feel themselves, because that is what they see of themselves and that is how they feel. But that is not faith! That is unbelief because the Word of God says something different! God has said that because we are regenerate, we are now dead to sin, alive to God, dead to law and led by His Spirit. But because of our experience of ourselves, we tend to believe our experience. We are living by sight and not by faith.

5.4 Walking and standing in faith

Using the word “walk” as a description of the living of the Christian life the Bible says exactly the opposite!

“For we walk by faith, not by sight.” 2 Cor. 5:7 (NKJV)

Logically, one would expect that a babe in Christ – a new convert – would be taught the right way to handle these things by church elders, ministers or friends. However, my experience of the modern church is that this does not happen, as many Christians, many church elders and many ministers themselves do not know these truths, nor how to apply them in their own lives, let alone guide other people into correct usage.

It seems to me that Christians are allowed by too many of their elders to walk (too much) by sight, by the experiences of living and not by the Word of God and its description of our state. Many years of my own walk with God were this way, as no one had shown me how one must wait for the Lord whilst professing His truth, as He brought about these truths in my life. I now believe these truths are made practical in our lives by walking by faith, not by sight.

The Bible also uses the word “stand” to describe our Christian life as we stand on truth as God works it out in our life. Consider

the following scriptures that tell us to stand in faith and various other aspects of the Christian life. Whilst we stand, God acts.

*"Watch, **stand fast in the faith**, be brave, be strong." 1 Cor. 16:13 (NKJV)*

*"Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and **you stand by faith**. Do not be haughty, but fear." Rom. 11:20 (NKJV)*

*"**Stand fast** therefore **in the liberty** by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage." Gal. 5:1 (NKJV)*

*"Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you **stand fast in one spirit**, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel," Phil. 1:27 (NKJV)*

*"Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, **that you may stand perfect and complete** in all the will of God." Col. 4:12 (NKJV)*

*"For now we live, if you **stand fast in the Lord**." 1 Thess. 3:8 (NKJV)*

*"through whom also we have access **by faith into this grace in which we stand**, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Rom. 5:2 (NKJV)*

*"Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for **God is able to make him stand**." Rom. 14:4 (NKJV)*

*"Moreover, brethren, I declare to you **the gospel** which I preached to you, which also you received and **in which you stand**," 1 Cor. 15:1 (NKJV)*

So whether we describe the Christian life as a walk or as standing, we are standing or walking in faith as God does His work in us and eventually through us. Using these same four descriptions of the human life of being dead to sin, alive in Christ Jesus, being dead to law and led by the Spirit of God, we can therefore say we need to stand or walk believing those things as God brings into actuality those states within us. They are already in the invisible spiritual realm and by His power He can and will bring them into the visible human realm, where they will be our normal human experience.

5.4. 5.4. Some incidental practical examples

Here are six random examples of how to learn to operate in faith, to stand in faith and to walk in faith. Whilst they do not cover all aspects of Christian life, they should give some idea of how to approach this new way of living in faith.

5.4.1. Understanding scripture correctly

When we sin, we need to believe it is not habitual sin, but incidental sin, confess it, be forgiven and cleansed. It is quite remarkable to hear so many otherwise sound believers refer to themselves as sinners rather than saints, especially when the book of 1 John clearly says three times that we do not, or cannot sin (habitually) and Romans says we are dead to sin and freed from it. Moreover, John recognizes that if we do sin incidentally, he provides the means of forgiveness and cleansing from his words in 1 John 1:9.

We need to know scripture, believe it and rely on it, standing and walking in it. We must work out our faith this way – by understanding what scripture really says.

5.4.2. 5.4.2. Giving God time to do His work

When we think that nothing is happening after initially believing and standing on these things, or we consider it is taking too long, it is quite easy to rely on feelings and thoughts rather than relying on the Word of God and trusting that God will do His work. When we rely on thoughts and feelings, rather than what the Spirit is saying to our spirit, then faith goes out the window and we begin to wonder why nothing is happening. This leads to one form of unbelief.

We need to have knowledge of separation of soul and spirit, so that soulish thoughts and feelings that come to us, can be set aside, so that we can focus on that still small voice that come through our spirit, through our spiritual union with God. We sometimes have to stand in faith for a long time.

5.4.3. 5.4.3. Knowing where to obtain guidance

We need to take care when we hear directions from church authorities that provide guidance that comes from church traditions, or the various ism's that sometimes are used to direct church activities. Also, humanistic views are sometimes adopted by churches, and we need to check them out against what the Bible says.

Be a Berean and check out what you hear before you adopt it as gospel truth.

Faith says to trust in God that He will supply answers to every issue of life.

5.4.4. 5.4.4. Handling emotional hurt or rejection correctly

When we are hurt or rejected, particularly by another believer, we can easily lapse into a semi-permanent state of feeling this hurt or rejection. Why do we allow ourselves to bear grudges, or want to retaliate, when scripture says not to do so? It seems to me that the ways in which adversity is

handled is one of the great weaknesses of the application of the Christian faith in the Christian church. Right through scripture there are multitudes of saints who suffered badly or were persecuted for some reason. They were put there for our example and our learning. Also in scripture, there is continual advice to count suffering or difficulty as a good thing and not a bad thing, yet most Christians still view it in the negative as though God had nothing to do with it. The truth is that God, in His sovereignty has everything to do with our adversities and uses them to bring us to the fullness of faith that He requires of us. If our lives went along smoothly all the time we would never get to learn strong scriptural faith.

Why not forgive and / or love / or forbear? All things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose. Why not believe it is really ALL THINGS and not just some things? Faith can be hardest to hold when being persecuted or hurt, but that is when we need it most for God to work out His purposes in us.

5.4.5. 5.4.5. Handle the decisions of life correctly

We all have a continuous stream of decisions to make in life, many of which are not specifically provided for in scripture. Scripture says that we have the mind of Christ. Would Christ not know what to do in each situation? Of course there is a learning period, where we also need to rely on guidance from other trusted people. That is why Paul wrote many of his letters, to reply to questions his newly established churches had asked. When it was only possible for them in their immaturity to drink milk instead of eating meat, he did not mind advising them in detail what to do and how to do it. But his main message to his charges was still "Christ in you" and "Christ my life". He wanted all believers to learn this one fact and to learn to operate from it. As we learn to operate from our "mind of Christ" we will of course make mistakes, but if we do not

exercise this God given principle we will never grow and be able to operate as mature children of God.

Have confidence that we do have the mind of Christ, despite mistakes we might make as we learn to operate from the scriptural fact of Christ in you. Standing in real faith and believing all of scripture is sometimes like jumping over a cliff and hoping God is there to catch us. If He has said He will be there to catch us, then He will. Faith in one sense is a real risk – but in God it is obedience.

5.4.6. 5.4.6. Interpret scripture correctly

When we sin and read of Paul's struggle with sin in Romans 7:14-25 and think that there is a constant battle with sin as he describes it in those verses, it is possible to be confused. Two things need to be said about that. First, those verses were a description of Paul's experience as the Holy Spirit taught him of his death to sin and law. It was a temporary experience around A.D 37 whilst in Arabia and or Damascus. That it was not his life experience is evidenced by his spiritual achievements listed in 3.1 of this study. There is no way that Paul's apparent confusions of Romans 7:14-24 could have continued in his life, otherwise he would never have achieved what he did. Second, a close examination of Chapters 6-8 of Romans reveals that there was a change that came as he was released from his error and his wretched state spoken of in Romans 7:24.

This is best explained by going to Romans 8: 9. that says:

"But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His." Rom. 8:9 (NKJV)

This verse in fact dispels all the problems that Romans 7:14-24 seems to create. Notice that the verse says, "you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit". Please remember

that the problem of Romans 7:14 was based on Paul saying that he was carnal, sold under sin - carnal meaning fleshly, meaning that he was using ineffective human effort in his attempt to live righteously. But he is in fact now saying that he is not fleshly at all, but in the Spirit! But our flesh has been crucified on the cross.

*"And those who are Christ's have **crucified the flesh** with its passions and desires." Gal. 5:24 (NKJV)*

This means that he has the Spirit of God dwelling in him to empower him in all that he did. The Spirit of God empowers him to live as he should. If we walk in faith and live by the Spirit there is no battle between flesh and Spirit. There is no effective human effort with which to try and attain the law.

If as he says, he is not in the flesh, which has been replaced by the Spirit, then the apparent sin that he talks about in Romans 7: 15-23 is no longer a relevant issue. Not only is he dead to it, but the Spirit now controls his life. This is more evidence that Romans 7: 14-25 is a parenthesis explaining an aspect of his life that is no longer relevant, current, or true to Paul, as he has now passed into the fullness of life expressed in Romans 8. No wonder he wanted to thank God through Christ Jesus his Lord!

This one verse, by saying we are not in the flesh, in effect eliminates all the apparent problems and supposed conflict of Romans 7:14-25. It reveals that the apparent conflict that many believe exists in this section of scripture, is Paul's description of a believer who has not yet appropriated by faith, the benefits of the cross in Romans 6.

This subject of Romans 7 is difficult to deal with because of much incorrect understanding of the relevant passage. For more detail, go to these 3 articles written by the author.

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~gnaust/life/truthgrs-02.html>

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~gnaust/life/truthgr-05.html>
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~gnaust/life/truthgr-08.html>

At times, we all need to re-examine our cherished beliefs or things taught to us in earlier days. Faith says that if we do, then God will supply the answers in His time. That is indicative of my own personal experience. We must stand and walk, believing that God will teach us through His Spirit.

5.4.7. 5.4.7. The faith confession

This is the final part of the "how to" of all this study. For the Lord to see our faith in operation we need to confess our faith with our mouth. That is a principle previously mentioned as coming from Romans 10:9-10.

So, whichever of these scriptural truths you believe - really believe, if they are confessed from the heart through our mouth, then this tells God that we believe in what He has done through Jesus Christ – and He will then begin to bring about the benefits of these truths to our lives. The list is randomly sequenced, some of the more important truths being underlined and highlighted.

"I am born again through the Word of God."

"I know the truth and the truth has set me free."

"I am reconciled to God through Christ Jesus."

"I am born of God and the wicked one does not touch me."

"I am blessed because I have faith."

"I am holy and without blame before Him."

"I have the peace of God which surpasses all understanding."

"I have everlasting life and have passed from death to life."

"My life is hidden in Christ with God."

"I am delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the Kingdom of God."

"I have redemption, forgiveness of sin and knowledge of the mystery of His will."

"I am dead to sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus."

"I have been freed from sin."

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live; it is Christ who lives in me."

"I have been redeemed from the curse of the law."

"I am in Christ as a new creation."

"I have put off the body of the sins of the flesh."

"I have been made alive with Christ."

"I live by the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, which has freed me from the law of sin and death."

"I have been blessed with every spiritual blessing"

"I am the elect of God, holy and beloved."

"I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus."

"I am a partaker of His divine nature."

"I am free from condemnation because I am in Christ Jesus and walk with His Spirit."

"I have obtained an inheritance in Christ."

"I will overcome and eat from the tree of life."

"I am an heir of God and a joint heir with Jesus Christ."

"I am created in Jesus for good works."

"I am called according to His holy purposes."

"I am an ambassador for Christ."

"I am strong in the Lord and in the power of His might."

"I am being changed into the same image as the Lord."

"I am more than a conqueror."

"I have the mind of Christ."

"I am the temple of the Holy Spirit."

"I am complete in Christ."

Conclusion

The question I asked myself at the beginning of this study was:

If I were *now* asked to explain the Gospel and full effect of the cross of Jesus Christ,

- * How would I explain it?
- How would I compare it with traditional descriptions and teachings of the Gospel?

That question can now be answered.

How would I explain it?

The gospel of Jesus Christ has both a blood and body aspect, which together make possible forgiveness, regeneration leading to eternal life after death, and fullness of life on earth due to freedom from sin and law. The first aspect brings the new believer into permanent relationship to God and the second provides the freedom from sin and law , along with many other benefits which are needed to have the power to live the life on earth.

How would I compare it with traditional descriptions and teachings of the Gospel?

Traditional descriptions and teachings of the gospel normally only include the blood aspect of the cross dealing with forgiveness of sin, regeneration and receiving eternal life. The body aspect of the cross, which provides for freedom from sin and law is not normally taught as a part of the gospel and is mostly relegated to being just another bit of doctrine. Consequently, many if not most believers, do not have the power to live the life as God intended, simply because they do not know the full effect of Christ's death and resurrection, nor how to have it implemented in their life. Alternatively, they get involved in pseudo Christian or humanistic practices that are not scriptural.

Having included something of the "how to" in this study, I should now add in summary that we need to expect great or unusual difficulties as we attempt to walk in faith and stand in faith as we live and learn this experience of full union with God. This union with God, this relationship with the Alpha and Omega is the most incredible union ever imaginable, and quite outside normal human experience, so we should expect there will be many surprises and difficulties as we learn.

Remaining Issues

What has been done so far in this study completes the basic teaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, covering both blood and body effects resulting from the death and resurrection of Christ. In this study we covered how our sins are forgiven and how sin is defeated so that we may reign in life.

However, there are a significant number of related issues, which will now be addressed, in order to extend and complement the whole study. These will be written in the form of question and answer in brief form, with reference and resources suggested for further study.

6 Issues related to this study – in question and answer format

- 6.1 What is the nature of man? What differences are there between believers and unbelievers? Do believers have two conflicting natures?
- 6.2 How are God and man different given that we were created in His image? Given man's fall in Eden, how can it be said that man and God can now still have union and communion?
- 6.3 How does God provide real guidance to believers? How do we avoid the confusion that comes from thoughts and feelings? Relate these things to the rest mentioned in Hebrews 4.
- 6.4 What is real faith? In what realm does it operate? How can it be learned and implemented? How does one see beyond evil and difficulty?
- 6.5 What is sanctification? Is it sometimes described or interpreted incorrectly?
- 6.6 What effect does the Holy Spirit and Satan have on the spirit, soul and body of the believer?
- 6.7 What is the role of adversity in life according to God? How

is it that a God of love can send or permit suffering, difficulty and persecution and use it as a means of growing faith in us?

6.8 6.8 As Christians are freed from sin, do they actually sin?

6.9. Using Romans 14:14-25, explain how some Bible commentaries can confuse rather than enlighten?

These sections are currently being written