

**THE DOCTRINE
OF
SOTERIOLOGY
(SALVATION)**

VOLUME 1

by

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INTRODUCTION

to the

DOCTRINE OF SOTERIOLOGY

I pray this booklet will be a blessing to you. It is only a skeletal outline of the doctrine of Soteriology. This in no way exhausts the doctrine of Soteriology. No one man knows everything there is to know about this subject. I am reminded about what my pastor said after my ordination, "Bro. Eddie I might be right and you wrong, and you might be right and me wrong, and both of us could be wrong on a subject because we do not have enough light on that subject." May the Lord enlighten us on this subject. If all were written about the doctrine of Soteriology, it would be as John said about the Lord Jesus in John 21:25 "*The world itself could not contain the books that should be written.*"

Read this booklet, study it, dissect it, reprint it in part or in its entirety, teach it, preach it, or use it anyway you see fit. I do not claim any originality. Also, there are not any copyrights for who can put a copyright on truth?

This series was preached in our church in 2005. If you would like to have the CDs (23) of these messages please let us know. They are free for the asking. We had to put this writing in two volumes. If you come in contact with either volume 1 or 2 and want the other volume, we would be glad to send it to you just for the asking. If we can be of help in any way, please feel free to write or call. We care.

Because of Calvary,

Edgar Lee Paschall

THE DOCTRINE OF SOTERIOLOGY

Doctrine means teaching. Soteriology is a compound word "soteri" and "ology." "Soteri" is the basic word for health and "ology" is the knowledge of or the study of. Thus, the doctrine of soteriology is the teaching and the study of spiritual health of mankind--which is salvation. Isaiah 53:5 states: *"with his stripes we are healed."* This is referring to spiritual healing and not physical healing. An angel told Joseph that Mary *"shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."* (Matthew 1:21) "Save" is translated from the Greek word "sozo" which means to save, to rescue from danger, make whole, and heal--spiritually not physical.

Why study the subject of Soteriology? Because knowledge of the Scripture will make one wise unto Salvation--"soteri" 1 Timothy 3:15 *"And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."* Theology, which is a study of God, has been said by man to be the most important doctrine to study. I say soteriology is the next most important doctrine to study for you can know about God and not be saved.

The doctrine of soteriology is left out by many religious schools and colleges and even if they have that course in their institution, most are not right on this subject because easy believism is taught and the work of the Holy Spirit is left out. Soteriology is a controversial subject and there are ditches on both sides of the road. Some are in the ditch on one side by practicing easy believism and then there are others who are in the opposite ditch of fatalism. We need to get in the middle of the road concerning this doctrine for that is where God stands--in liberty. Deuteronomy 5:32-33 *"Ye shall observe to do therefore as the LORD your God hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. Ye shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess."* Any truth carried to extreme is error. So let us look at and study the doctrine of soteriology.

I. Deals with man's fall--when man sinned in the garden.

A. That from which man fell.

1. From state of perfection.

Adam was made in God's image by the hand of God. Genesis 1:26-27 *"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."* Genesis 2:7 gives the details--*"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.* What does it mean to make man in our image? God is a triune God--Elohim which is a plural word--

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Man takes many positions and tries to prove their position by books men have written. It does not matter what books say but what does the Book say? Some say you have to be careful for you do not have the original Scripture. That is true, but if you have been awakened and saved, you have the originator of Scripture, the Holy Ghost, to guide you into all truth. John 16:13 *"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."* Thus, you need to rightly divide the Word. 2 Timothy 2:15 *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."*

When God said, "Let us make man in our image," He was not talking to Himself, for the trinity was present. This can not be proved by this verse. 2 Peter 1:20 *"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation."* This states you cannot take one verse of scripture alone and build a doctrine. John 1:1, 14a reveals two parts of the Trinity--God the Father and Jesus the Son who later was robed in flesh. *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us. . ."* When John the Baptist was baptizing in Matthew 3:16-17 all three of the Trinity was present--God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. *"And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."* Therefore, He created Adam in His image and in His likeness. I believe that involved Adam being a triune being--spirit, soul, and body.

Notice He made Adam in His image but after the fall all descendants are made in Adam's image. Genesis 5:3 *"And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, and after his image; and called his name Seth."* You were made in the image of man--a chip off the block. Therefore, one must be saved to be back in the image of God. 2 Cor. 5:17 *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."* When saved He will bring that new creature to total completion. Romans 8:29 *"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."* This is proof, that man is a triune being when saved. 1 Thess. 5:23 *"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Hebrews 4:12 gives rise to the soul and spirit as being different, even though these words in English are used inter-changeable. *"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged 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."* Genesis 41:8 says his spirit is the element of his trouble (*"And it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled; and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt, and all the wise men thereof: and Pharaoh told them his dream; but there was none that could interpret them unto Pharaoh."*) while Psalm 42:6 says his soul is the element of his trouble (*"O my God, my soul is cast down within me: therefore will I remember thee from the land of Jordan, and of the Hermonites, from the hill Mizar."*)--used inter-changeable yet different. In John 12:27 Jesus said His soul (psuche) was troubled (*"Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour."*) and in John 13:21 He said His spirit (pneuma) was troubled. *"When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me."* These texts use a different

Greek word, thus having a spirit and soul and we know He had a body. The body is world conscience, the soul is self conscience, and the spirit is God conscience. Until God awakens you, you are not conscience of God. Hebrews 11:6 *"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."*

Adam, made in the image of God had one law (Genesis 2:17 *"But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."*) and it had teeth--the day he ate of the forbidden tree, he died yet the Bible said he lived 930 years. His death in the garden was separation from God. He died spiritually, therefore, he had what we refer to as a fallen nature. And that death was passed upon all men. Romans 5:12 *"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."* That is why it takes the preaching of the truth--the word sharpened to divide soul and spirit. Hebrews 4:12 *"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged 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."* When this division takes place, that one is awakened and one comes to know something is not right in his spirit.

Adam, the height of God's creation, was created in the image of God--three parts: spirit, soul, and body. There is no such thing as evolution of man from an animal, for man is three parts--spirit, soul, and body (his spirit is the part of God conscienceness) and animals have only two parts--soul (seat of affections) and body. Plants have only one part--body. Unless God awakens a person he will never be God conscience.

When Adam fell he lost his state of perfection--ceased being in the image of God. He was dead spiritually and had a fallen nature. Thus, we need to study soteriology for man needs to be healed spiritually--be saved so that he can function properly, as God desires.

Thus man fell from a state of perfection. Also, he fell from:

2. A Perfect environment.

The garden of Eden was a utopia. There was no sin, no turmoil, no death, no pain, no suffering, no sorrow, and no curse. But he lost that when he ate of the forbidden tree. Genesis 3:23-24 *"Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life."* He lost the perfect environment he was in. Some say if I just had a better environment, everything will be alright. Adam had the best environment one can have, yet sinned and needed spiritual healing. He needed a Saviour and that is why Jesus came. Matthew 1:21 *"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."* Save is from the Greek word "sozo" which means the healing of mankind spiritually--soteriology.

Be thankful if the Lord has awakened you and is stirring in you. Do not push off that bother inside, let Him continue that you may be healed spiritually--sozo--saved. God has been longsuffering and good so as to give you a space of repentance. Romans 2:4 *"Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"*

B. The condition to which man fell.

1. Dead.

Ephesians 2:1 *"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins."*

Paul was writing to the saints--saved (Ephesians 1:1 *"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus."*) who were, before saved, separated from God--dead. It means they at one time had no consciousness toward God. They were dead, yet safe, until they reached the "knowledge (not age) of accountability." Deuteronomy 1:39 *"Moreover your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, and your children, which in that day had no knowledge between good and evil, they shall go in thither, and unto them will I give it, and they shall possess it."* This verse says that all the children of Israel under 20 years of age (age found in Numbers 14:29) had no knowledge of good and evil; therefore, they were not accountable to God and did not die in the wilderness. A college professor in a local college said that a person cannot think abstract until they reach puberty. One cannot be saved until they can think abstract for God is abstract and faith is abstract. Therefore, a three or four year old child cannot think abstract so they are safe until they reach the knowledge of accountability which is closer to 20 years of age than three.

Adam only had one law and it had teeth. Genesis 2:17 *"But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."* When Adam ate of that tree, he died spiritually even though he lived 930 years. And he passed that death to all man-kind. Romans 5:12 *"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."* We are born dead and have no consciousness of God.

2. Lost

This simply means separated from God when we reach the knowledge of accountability but safe until we reach that point. The Bible refers to man as being lost. Luke 15:24 *"For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry."* This is a parable referring to three things that were lost--sheep, coin, and son. Being lost is a dreadful thing, not just mentally but in reality--experiencing lostness. But that is who Jesus came to save. Luke 19:10 *"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."* When did you experience lostness? If a person continues in lostness, he will be separated from God throughout eternity in the lake of fire. That is a dreadful thing.

3. Influenced to the point of control.

This influence is by the world, devil, and flesh. Ephesians 2:2-3 *"Wherein in time past ye walked 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: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others."*

4. Alienated.

This is similar to being lost and means to shut out from one's fellowship and intimacy, a stranger to, and estranged. Ephesians 4:18 *"Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart."* Our compassion reaches out to a child who is alienated from its parents. In like manner when we see a world (mankind) alienated from God, it ought to move us to compassion. It did Jesus. Matthew 9:36-37 *"But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few."* Matthew 23:37 *"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!"*

He knew their condition. And when we really see the condition of others even in our churches, may it move us and cause us to ask what can we learn and do to help others come to Christ that they may be saved? Answer: Study the doctrine of soteriology so that we might understand what real salvation is, so that we would not lead someone to make a false profession.

5. Without strength.

Romans 5:6 *"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly."*

Without strength means weak for good--not capable of doing good. We get our word anesthesia from this Greek word. When a person is under total anesthesia, he is not world conscience--no sense of touch, sight, hear, smell, and taste. In a similar manner when one is under the anesthesia of sin, he is not God conscience--no faith, no worship, no love, no hope, and no fear. Romans 3:18 *"There is no fear of God before their eyes."* This is true of all who are not awakened spiritually. The man the demons called Legion as well as Lydia and Mary Magdalene, had been awakened and worshiped Jesus and Luke 7:47 says: *"Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little."* This woman (believed to be Mary Magdalene by some) loved (agape) much. These things happened even though she was not saved but had been awakened.

6. Ungodly.

Romans 5:6 *"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly."*

This word means strong for evil. Remember all are safe until they reach the knowledge of accountability.

7. Sinners.

Romans 5:8 *"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*

This is not just referring to sinners by nature, which is true, but actively engaged in sin by choice.

8. Enemies.

Romans 5:10 *"For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life."*

9. Blind.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 *"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."*

This could apply to those who do not want to see, which is true of all natural mankind. This also could apply to those who have preconceived ideas of error and when truth comes passing by, they shut their eye to the real truth and as a manner of speaking they say, "My mind is made up. Do not confuse me with the truth."

10. Deceived.

Jeremiah 17:9 *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"*

This makes it very clear that a depraved man does not know his own heart and only the Lord can awaken him to see his deceived heart.

11. Depraved.

This term has been applied to the natural man. It means totally corrupted to the core. The Bible says in Romans 3:12 *"They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one."*

12. Condemned.

John 3:18-19 *"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."* and John 3:36 *"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."*

Condemned means the natural man who has reached the knowledge of accountability is under the judgment of God. God's wrath abides on him and if it was not for the goodness of God, he would be in hell, but the Lord holds back that wrath to give him a space of repentance. Romans 2:4 *"Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"*

The sad thing about these 12 conditions is that there are many who have never seen the deplorable condition they are in. Also another sad condition is there are many who say they are saved and do not care about the sad condition of those who are lost. When we see mankind dwelling in this condition, it is needful for us to be compassionate and to ask ourselves what can I do and what can I learn that I may be able to help lost humanity. Answer: Study the doctrine of soteriology so that I might understand what real salvation is and that I would not lead someone to make a false profession.

When we look at these 12 conditions to which man fell, it sounds like man is hopeless. But Jesus said in John 4:4 *"And he must needs go through Samaria."* because there was a woman at the well who needed to be saved and Jesus passed by her that day and saved her.

Every time there is a bad picture of our condition painted in Scripture, there follows a "But God." Ephesians 2:4-5a *"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins. . ."* Then He gives a promise of what He will do. He not only loves us but He forbears, holds back that wrath giving us a space of repentance. Romans 2:4 *"Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"* It is God's purpose to save His people from their sin. Matthew 1:24 *"Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife."* Luke 19:10 *"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."*

C. Explanation of Man's fall.

We cannot fully explain the fall because we do not have a direct Biblical revelation of the reason of the fall. We cannot go to chapter and verse that states why man fell. There are many explanations given by man in books and on the radio and TV but most do not make any sense at all. It is true that Adam was free to choose, for we know he did choose, but we do not know why he chose wrong. We know Adam was created on the sixth day and put in the garden of Eden. Genesis 2:8 *"And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed."* He was given one law and it had teeth in it. Genesis 2:16-17 *"And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."* This was told to Adam before Eve was created the sixth day. We also know God permitted Satan in the garden and He permitted man to partake of the forbidden fruit. But the reason why Adam did this we know not. Therefore, we do not know the reason Adam fell, but we can know:

D. The cause of the fall.

This is dealing with the things that actually took place to bring the fall about.

1. The efficient cause.

Efficient means the thing that effected the fall of man; that which causes anything to be what it is; the causing effect. It was Satan the serpent. He appeared not long after man and woman were placed in the garden and were told to replenish the earth. Genesis 1:28-29 *"And God blessed them and God said unto them, be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. 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; to you it shall be for meat."* The reason I believe it was not long was because there had been no conception. (Genesis 3:1-7; read in Bible) In these verses we do not find a direct statement that this was Satan that was tempting Eve. In fact the Scripture is clear that it was the serpent. But as you go through the Bible there are conclusive indications that Satan was using the serpent. We could say that Satan was embodied in the serpent. Revelation 12:9 *"And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."*; 12:14 *"And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent."*; 20:2 *"And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years."* God cursed the serpent for allowing Satan to use him. Genesis 3:14 *"And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life."* Satan is the efficient cause of the fall.

2. The Active cause.

Man was not passive--means not active. He was active. For Satan did not put the fruit of the tree in their mouths. No, they chose and they acted in rebellion against God. Genesis 3:6-7 *"And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons."* Eve was deceived (beguiled) but Adam was not deceived. I Tim. 2:13-14 *"For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression."* Therefore, man was not passive--inactive. He chose and acted in rebellion against God for what ever reason and he brought sorrow upon himself and all mankind.

3. The Permissive cause.

Where was God during this time. He withheld grace for resistance. I ask you could God not have given him grace not to have partook of the fruit of the tree? How else does grace come? It is obvious that they did not have grace to resist. 1 Corinthians 10:13 *"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."* This verse indicates that God has the power, ability, and control over all temptations. He is able to withhold any temptation He so chooses. Paul is an example. He asked the Lord to remove the thorn in his flesh but God said, *"My grace is sufficient."* (2 Corinthians 12:9a) Also Paul was continually keeping himself

from temptations. 1 Corinthians 9:27 *"But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."*

We need to pray that God does not withhold grace for resistance. (Romans 1:21-28; read in Bible) These people rejected light and God withheld His grace and they were given up to uncleanness, vile affections, and a reprobate mind. Paul said if you turn away from truth you will be turned to error. 2 Tim. 4:4 *"And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."* Oh, we need all the grace we can get--amazing grace, saving grace, and sanctifying grace.

God could have kept Satan out of the garden if He had chosen to do so. Also, He could have kept Eve with her husband away from Satan if He chose to. But for God's own reason He chose to allow these things to come together and allow these things to take place as they did. The permissive cause-- God allowing man to partake of the forbidden fruit. Matthew 11:26 *"Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight."*

4. The immediate cause--man's desire for dominion without Divine restraint.

When God created man He gave him dominion over all the rest of the creation of the earth, not heaven. As we go through the Bible it seems that God gave man the desire for dominion--the desire to rule. That is not only seen in the Bible but we see that as a natural trait man has today. No doubt that desire was increased greatly after the fall. That desire caused man to move in contrast to the revealed will of God. Genesis 2:17 *"But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."*

The temptation for man's dominion to be exercised without God's restraint, God's instruction, and God's leadership, came when Satan lied. Genesis 3:5 *"For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."* Satan said, you may eat what you want, you may rule as you please, and do not worry about God's restraint. It was a desire for dominion without Divine restraint--the immediate cause. Man's sin, as far as the immediate, is always selfish.

5. The underlying cause--man's dependency and mutability--changeableness.

The Word says man was created in such a way that he could fall and could change. God was and is immutable. Malachi. 3:6 *"For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."* Some say God repented (changed) and did not destroy Nineveh. When God repents He changes His course of action for He already knew exactly what He was going to do, Thus "He changed not." God's immutability means the unchangeable character of God which was not transferred to man. Man could change. Thus, our attitude should be the attitude of Christ when we look at the reasons and cause of the fall. The attitude of Christ which should prevail in our hearts is found in Mat. 11:25-26. *"At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight."* The Scripture said, "Father you did it because that is the way you wanted to do it. It seemed good in thy sight and that is good enough for me." This needs to be our attitude.

There are some things in the Bible simply not revealed to us concerning God's cause and purpose. Deuteronomy 29:29 *"The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law."* We need to accept it this way. Salvation is the issue and 1 Timothy 2:4 could apply. (*"Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."*) Paul spoke of some mysteries not yet revealed and the reason of the fall could be in that category--mystery. When we look at the Bible we have a true revelation from God but we do not have a full revelation. God has not chosen to tell us everything yet. John 16:12-13 *"I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."* There are many things we need to just bow our heads and say, "It seemed good in thy sight." And the reason of the fall is one of those things. Do not get hung up on the why.

E. The results of man's fall--what happened when Adam fell and what were the results of the fall?

1. The entire human race fell in Adam.

When Adam fell, I fell. When Adam fell, you fell. When Adam died, I died. When Adam died, you died. The Biblical revelation is found in Romans 5:12 *"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."* With the entrance of sin was an entrance of death. 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 *"Behold, I shew 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 trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."* We died in Adam and will be resurrected in Christ.

2. There were immediate effects which came on the human race.

These effects--spiritual death, corruption of man's nature, and judicial guilt before a Holy God. Because Adam fell, man is guilty before God. We are conceived in sin--sinful nature is passed on to each and every person born in the human race and we are guilty before God.

3. There were long range effects upon the human race:

- Eternal death spiritually. Romans 6:23a *"For the wages of sin is death. . ."* This refers to hell and the lake of fire.
- Involved judicial guilt before God.
- Involved the corruption of our affections.
- Involved the perversion of our conscience.
- Involved the enslaving of our nature, including our will--this is due to influence. I am not saying man does not have a will or that man's will is not free within the boundaries of his nature. I am

saying there was an ensnaring of man's nature which included his will.

4. Adam's fall needs to be seen as compared to Eve's. 1 Timothy 2:14 *"And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression."*

Eve sinned in ignorance but not in innocence. Eve was very guilty. Adam fell by knowledgeable transgressions--he knew what he was doing--he was not deceived. And Eve fell in him. Adam was the head and he was responsible. Did Eve fall first or Adam? If Eve fell first and then Adam, why did God say that men die in Adam and not Eve? Eve did not fall first, Eve did not fall as a result of her eating of the tree directly but she fell as a result of Adam eating of the forbidden tree of the knowledge of good and evil. For it was Adam who was given this responsibility not to eat of that tree. And it was Adam in whom Eve fell, in whom Eve died, and in whom Eve sinned. This is called Federal Headship.

Federal Headship is foreign to the modern mind, and is not mentioned in the Bible, but it is a biblical concept. It is the teaching that the father is the one who represents his family, his descendants. Job is an example. Job 1:5 *"And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually."*

Further proof of this can be found in Hebrews 7:4-10. (look it up and read it.) Levi was a distant descendent of Abraham, yet it is said that Levi paid tithes to Melchizedek even though Levi was not born. How can this be? We know that Levi did not physically carry out the act of paying tithes to Melchizedek, but we also know that Abraham was the representative head of his descendants. This is how it can be said that Levi also paid tithes to Melchizedek. Federal Headship also finds its place in the epistle of Romans. (Romans 5:12-14; read)

One Bible commentary says, "The federal headship view considers Adam, the first man, as the representative of the human race that generated from him. As the representative of all humans, Adam's act of sin was considered by God to be the act of all people and his penalty of death was judicially made the penalty of everybody." Therefore, Adam was the federal head and I was in him and when he sinned, I sinned and died.

Also the federal headship of Adam rests upon his natural headship. He was our natural head before he was our federal head. He was made our federal representative because he was our natural forefather, and because of his action our destiny was affected, because our very nature was on trial in him. When he ate of the forbidden tree, we ate also.

Therefore, it should be clear that Adam represented us and when he fell, we fell. But some may object and say that is not fair. They will say that we should not be held responsible for Adam's sin because we never sinned--we never ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. But death reigned upon all mankind. Romans 5:14 *"Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come."*

If this is a position they want to hold, then let us take a look at the cross and see why federal headship is important in relation to Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:45 *"And so it is written, The first man*

Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit." The "last Adam" is a reference to Jesus because of the similar relationship that exists between them both. That is, both Adam and Jesus are representative heads. Adam is the representative head over all mankind, and Jesus is the representative head over all the saved. 1 Corinthians 15:22 *"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."* This is teaching us that Adam and Christ are heads of groups. Notice "in Adam" and "in Christ" referring to our position in relationship to both of them. If Adam did not represent mankind, then Jesus could not represent the saved when He died on the cross. As Adam's offense resulted in condemnation to all people, so also, Jesus' sacrifice on the cross results in justification for those who believe in Him. Romans 5:18 *"Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life."*

It is because of federal headship--legal representation--that we are able to be saved at all. As Adam's sin was imputed to us because of the fall, our sin was likewise imputed to Jesus on the cross and Jesus' righteousness is imputed to us when we receive Him. In other words, if it was not for the biblical idea of federal headship (of one person representing others), then Jesus could not have represented us on the cross. If Jesus did not represent us on the cross, then it could not be said of us. Colossians 3:3 *"For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God."* Romans 6:8 *"Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him."* Jesus represented us so completely on the cross that it can be said that we have died with Him. If it were not for federal headship, this would not be possible and we could not have died to sin.

Therefore, federal headship is a biblical concept with some very important results. Because of the biblical concept, we are able to enjoy salvation, we have died to sin, and we can rest in Christ who represented us before the Father in His satisfaction of the law of God. I am glad the Father said I am satisfied with what our representative did for us on the cross of Calvary. We died in the first Adam and live in the last Adam--Christ. I know that a work of God has to be carried out in our lives for this to be a reality.

Now a question: Was Christ your representative on the cross? In foreknowledge God knows. If He was, then you need to obey the light (truth) He has given you. Are you seeking Him? If you are, you will come to know Him if you will continue seeking Him. And there will come a time when your sins will be charged to His account and His righteousness will be imputed to your account--be justified because He is your federal head. Do not kick against this doctrine. Just let Him finish His work in you.

F. State of man after the fall.

When we refer to man as to his character and action we call him a sinner. When we refer to his condition, we refer to him as being depraved or totally depraved--the state of man is as a sinner. The nature of sin has to be seen from four directions.

1. Sin as an act.

1 John 3:4 *"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."*

Transgression is an act or a lack of action, or a violation in thought or lack of thought. Take for an example the command not to steal. If one steals, it is an act contrary to the command of God and we call that a sin of commission--transgression--overstepping the fence. Another example is the command to love one another. If we fail to do that, it is still an act contrary to the command and we call that the sin of omission--omitting to do what God commands. Also the tenth commandment says not to covet. Thus when we desire something we ought not have, we sin by attitude before we act. Many think if you can get a man to quit his actions he will be okay. That would be like taking a sick person who was moaning and groaning and you get them to quit moaning and groaning they would be alright. That would not heal their sickness. In like manner when we look at the act of sin, it issues from something else:

2. Principle of sin--an attitude of rebellion against God.

There is a principle in man that says, "I want to do what I want to do," as opposed to what God wants. In the garden before Eve partook of the fruit, she had a desire to take it. She was deceived as to the final result but not deceived as to what God told Adam to do. She knew. Yet Satan said in Genesis 3:4 *"Ye shall not surely die."* Genesis 3:6 *"And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat."* Therefore, rebellion raised up its head in the heart of Eve. This is the principle of sin--an attitude of rebellion against God. Whether the act itself is committed or not, the principle of sin is still within man.

3. Essence of sin.

Essence means that which constitutes the particular nature of a being. That is self-exaltation. Basically a sinner does not sin because he has it in for God, even though he may come to that point. Eve did not have it in for God. The essence of sin is an attitude or condition of heart that says "self instead of God." "I want what I want." Natural man wants to do what gratifies himself and if God's will gets in the way then he does what he wants. (2 Timothy 3:1-5 is the basic condition of man's heart; read in Bible) Stated in these verses twice *"lovers of themselves and pleasure more than lovers of God."* Their problem lies in that they love themselves instead of loving God. The same is true with all who exalt themselves. 2 Thessalonians 2:4 *"Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."* That spirit is already working and it is the same spirit in natural man. Ephesians 2:2 *"Wherein in time past ye walked 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."* This brings about the rejection of Divine law in principle. Matthew 22:37 *"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."* This is saying, "love God supremely." Luke 18:11-12 *"The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess."* The Pharisee's attitude is "I, I, I" and he will be abased (to make low). Luke 18:13-14 *"And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven,*

but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted. The Lord said do not seek the highest seat and he rebuked those who did. (Luke 14:8-11; read in Bible) Let someone else toot your horn. Self assertion is rebellion against God.

We need to stand for what is right (truth), yet we have no rights of our own. That is self assertion. This all is in opposition to "loving God supremely," therefore, rejection of divine law. Satan fell because of self exaltation (Isaiah 14:12-15; read in Bible) and he was abased. Satan tempted the Lord because he wanted Him to bow down and worship him--self instead of God which is the very essence of sin. Eve ate the fruit because it was what she wanted. Man holds on to his sin because he wants the pleasure that will be derived from his sin. The very essence of sin is man's determination to gratify himself instead of glorifying God.

4. State of sin--man's inherent condition as being a sinner not just an act.

Sin reigns in attitude before it reigns in action. Attitude says I will. Man does not become a sinner by sinning, anymore than an apple tree becomes an apple tree by bearing apples. A man sins because he is a sinner, just as an apple tree bears apples because it is an apple tree. An apple tree's state must exist prior to and is largely causative of it bearing apples--which is its action.

So it is with a sinner. Man is a sinner by mere virtue of the fact he is a man. Every man born, with exception of Jesus was a sinner when he was born. Psalm 58:13 *"The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies."* By that I am saying he was destined to hell as an infant, but safe until he reached the knowledge of accountability. This state of sin issues in attitudes and acts--sins of commission and sins of omission. These outward manifestations are merely a result of the principle, essence, and state of sin in fallen man. And in man there is no hope within himself. Isaiah 64:7 *"And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities."* But God. Ephesians 2:4-5a *"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins. . ."* May you obey light and allow your federal head to place your sin on His account and His righteousness on your account. He is faithful. Philippians 1:6 *"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."* I Thessalonians 5:24 *"Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."*

G. We need to study the doctrine of soteriology--reasons.

1. We must understand that man must not diagnose his own spiritual state.

Someone has said, "The man who is his own doctor has a fool for a patient." The reason would be because his diagnosis would not be very good and probably his prognosis not good as well. This very clearly indicates that we are not qualified to diagnose our own spiritual state. Revelation 3:17 illustrates this. *"Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;*

and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." They looked at themselves and diagnosed their condition. Our Lord pointed out what they think of themselves. You may say that they know better than that. No, they did not know for the Lord said they "knowest not." They do not know. Jesus said, "Thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." They really were blinded and deceived.

So man must not analyze his own condition. When he does you will hear such statements as: "I am not such a bad guy. I am better than certain people I know. 2 Cor. 10:12 *"For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."* If I do thus and so, I think I will be alright." But the Lord said, "Thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." They had a wrong diagnosis of their condition, thus a wrong prognosis for their life. There is coming a time when many will claim what they are, thinking they will be accepted by the Lord and He will say, "Depart from me, I never knew you." Matthew 7:22-23 *"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."* Man must not diagnose his own spiritual state.

2. Man cannot see the source of his symptoms.

Many times we see men trying to reform, to change their habits, to improve the conduct of their life. But they fail to see the source of their problems. They are blinded and cannot see what is inside. Mark 7:21-23 *"For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man."* They think they have a bad habit but they have a bad heart. Jeremiah 17:9 *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"* They think they have bad influences, bad friends, and bad circumstances causing all their problem. But they have a bad heart and they cannot see that. Some think if they had a better environment they would be okay. Adam had a perfect environment, yet he fell in sin.

3. Man cannot project by reason the outcome of these things.

Man reasons, "I will be better one of these days." But the fact of the matter is unless God intervenes he will not be better but in fact, he will be worse if left to himself. His sin will grow worse and worse. Oh, he may turn from the more grosser sins that society frowns upon and turn to the more sophisticated ones society accepts. But he will never the less be just as filthy and unclean before God and he will not know the condition he is in. He will not know that he is "wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked"--has a bad heart.

4. Man cannot prescribe any remedy that will help.

You can read books, that men have dreamed up and stated, that will solve all man's problems. But as you look around today at all the research that has been done, all the philosophy of all the wise men that have come and gone, and read all the volumes of books that have been written, you will find that the earth is no better than it was--much like the woman with an issue of blood. Mark 5:25-26

"And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years, And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse." This old world has suffered greatly at the hands of men who said they had cures for man's condition. They were going to straighten man out, yet the more he follows their teachings, the more crooked he gets.

-crimes are higher.

-rebellion is greater.

-immorality on the rise.

-more murders.

-divorce rate is higher.

Man has not been able to come forth with a remedy that is satisfactory for his condition--when he fell in Adam. He cannot deliver himself from the terrible condition he is in. Therefore, he needs to realize that only God knows the results and remedy of sin. (Romans 7:7-13; read in Bible) Only God's law has shown man his condition--how sinful he is. Paul did not lust until the law became a reality to him and neither will we. When man tries to solve his problem usually his remedy involves legal acts of some sort. That may be the Mosaic law--the 10 commandments and we have broken all of them. There may be perverted law. But it will basically be, "Thou shalt not, or thou shalt." Man does not know the remedy of sin, only God does.

H. Man's responsibility after the fall.

Man is not a robot. He is responsible to that which he knows and that which he has access to know. The Bible indicates that the heathen is responsible--corresponds to his ability to know. Luke 12:48 *"But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more."* Romans. 1:19-20 *"Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."* We are without excuse because God placed a conscience inside all mankind. It is like a vacuum and there will be no satisfaction until God fills that vacuum. Also we have creation outside that speaks to us "There is a God." Does this mean that man can look up into heaven and learn all about God? No! The problem is that man refuses to learn what he could as he looks up into the heavens. It offers to them knowledge (light) that God is. This refutes evolution.

Man does not desire the knowledge of God because he has rejected available knowledge; therefore, he is without excuse. Romans 2:12-15 (read in Bible) says that the conscience was within man and caused him to become a law unto themselves; therefore, he is without excuse because he is responsible to what he has access to. Ignorance is not forced upon a man but something he chooses.

If I was given by my boss two boxes which contain a machine and a detailed set of instructions as to how to set it up and was told to set it up in the next 30 days, I have the mechanical ability and I may have the tools but I do not have the knowledge. The boss said he will be back in 30 days. He comes back and the boxes are opened but the machine is not put together. I say I did not know how to put it together. He ask, "Did you read the instructions?" I say, "No." Then he says, "You are fired." I say, "That is not fair for you are firing me for failing to do something I did not know how to do." He says, "Even though you did not know how to do it, you had the instructions at your disposal."

Therefore, we see my inability did not relieve me of my responsibility because I had access to the knowledge of how to do it which would have given me the ability to do it. So it is not only knowledge that brings responsibility, it is also access to knowledge. We have a lot of access to knowledge in America and in a true church, we have not only empowered preaching but study helps such as books and CD's available.

This supports the fact that infants and mentally incompetent people are safe by grace. The Bible does not say a great deal about this subject--the infant and incompetent being safe. The infant and mentally incompetent cannot comprehend, thus not having ability nor access; therefore, they are safe until they reach the knowledge of accountability. A lack of knowledge and a lack of access of knowledge seems to indicate a measure of innocence. John 9:39-41 (read in Bible) gives insight into this truth--no double talk here. The Lord said, "*If you were blind, you should have no sin, but now ye say We see; therefore your sin remaineth.*" They were not physically blind, but spiritually blind. The only other blindness is mental blindness which an infant and the mental incompetent have. The Pharisees did not have mental blindness. They had knowledge and access to knowledge; therefore, they were guilty and responsible before almighty God.

The spiritual mind has been blinded. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 "*But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*" That does not mean they are innocent. But the Lord said to the Pharisees if you had mental blindness, you would have no sin--be safe. But you have knowledge and mental perception; therefore you are guilty before God. Deuteronomy 1:39 "*Moreover your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, and your children, which in that day had no knowledge between good and evil, they shall go in thither, and unto them will I give it, and they shall possess it.*" Moses was telling them of their forefather's lack of faith and said He was not holding those children responsible who had no knowledge and no access of knowledge--safe. These children (those under 20 years of age) had not grown to the point to have access to the knowledge of good and evil. At Kadesh-Barnea these Israelites were spiritually blind or they would have gone in and possessed the land. They had experienced the hand of God delivering them time and time again. They had access and were responsible but not the children--those under 20 years of age.

We who have reached the knowledge of accountability are responsible. Luke 12:48 ". . . *For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.*" Many think they are okay like the Laodiceans in Revelation 3:17. "*Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.*" But the Lord said you are not okay and gave them counsel in Rev. 3:18. "*I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness*

do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see." This showed His longsuffering and goodness. Romans 2:4 *"Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"* May the Lord help us to heed His counsel and continue. John 8:31-32 *"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."* He showed His goodness to this group knowing what they would do--would not continue in His word. The Lord is so good!

I. The moral nature of Man.

When we study the condition of man and learn a little about what God is like, then we know man is not what he was when he came forth fresh from the hand of God. Adam was not what he was before he ate of the forbidden tree. Therefore, his state of being or his moral nature is a fallen nature and that was passed on by mankind--every man has a fallen nature. As you study the Bible you will understand that man is a moral creature and has responsibility. Man is not a beast nor did he come from a beast. I hope you know that. How can man be so dumb to believe he came from a beast?

Man has perception and understanding that a beast does not have and that separates him from a beast. He may at times act like a beast. In fact at times in his fallen state, he may conduct himself in a far meaner fashion than the beast, but he is no beast. What is it that makes man far different from the beast? He has within him faculties that God placed in him; therefore, he is above the beast. Faculties have the power and ability of the mind and intellect which enables it to receive, revive, or modify perceptions--called capacities of the mind such as seeing, hearing, imagining, remembering, and etc. Beasts have some faculties but they are inferior to humans; therefore, man is above the beast--no evolution here. We will divide these faculties into three different sections: 1) intellect, 2) conscience, and 3) will.

1. Intellect--faculty for perception or thought.

We do not mean that an animal cannot think, for he can but not to the degree man can. Take a dog for an example. He can think you are friendly by revealing an action--wagging his tail. Scold him and his actions change for he thinks you are unfriendly. So animals have the ability to think but man's ability to record information and to draw from that information is different from an animal--it is superior.

This is what the Lord tried to make plain to the Pharisees in John 9:39-41 (read in Bible) when He spoke of three types of blindness: 1) physical--the blind man had just been healed physically and we can understand this type of blindness, 2) mentally, and 3) spiritual. The Lord told the Pharisees in verse 41, *"If ye were blind, ye should have no sin."* Therefore, mental blindness is set forth here. I am glad God does not hold those who are mentally blind accountable. An example we could use is that a girl had a smart horse and she told the horse to do her chores. When she came back the chores were not done and she got a whip to whip the horse. But her dad said it is morally wrong to punish a horse when he did not have the ability (intellect) to do the chores.

God did not demand of Adam that which was not in his intellect. In like manner God did not demand death to all the children under 20 years of age as He did to all above 20 years of age. Deuteronomy 1:39 *"Moreover your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, and your children, which in that day had no knowledge between good and evil, they shall go in thither, and unto them will I give it, and they shall possess it."* They had no knowledge of good and evil because their faculty of intellect was not developed to its fullest--mentally blind; therefore, they were not accountable--not responsible. Man was created with an intellect and he still had that after the fall. But it may not be developed yet; thus, he is safe until he reaches the knowledge of accountability. The Pharisees were not blind physically, nor mentally, but spiritually.

2. Conscience--goes deeper than intellect.

Conscience means the power of the mind to know right from wrong. A child needs to know right from wrong by his first birthday. But the knowledge of accountability is when you know good from evil. Deuteronomy 1:39 *"Moreover your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, and your children, which in that day had no knowledge between good and evil, they shall go in thither, and unto them will I give it, and they shall possess it."* The tree in the garden was known as good and evil not right and wrong. A child has a conscience before he comes to the knowledge of accountability. Therefore, conscience is the power of the mind to know right from wrong and it goes deeper than the intellect.

When one's conscience operates, the intellect comes into play. But the conscience deals with the "feelings" of man which is within him and these feelings guide him. Therefore, there is a sense in which the conscience is the ultimate (final) guide. Some say, "I know the bible says so and so but I've never been convicted." They mean that they have never been accused by their conscience of their guilt. Many times they are lying about that or their conscience may be seared. 1 Tim. 4:1-2 *"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron."*

If a person has been taught about something that is wrong, their conscience will say that is not right. One's conscience can only operate according to the standard the person has been taught by. Revealed truth and available truth are truths that work through the conscience. Conscience will not convict without truth--word--standard--plumbline. The law of God has no way of reaching man except through his conscience. One may hear it (law) mentally or audibly yet have no reaction except it speaks through his conscience. When one does right it is the result of the prompting of the conscience.

The conscience acts according to the standard that is accepted by the mind. If the mind is taught from a child that it is right to do certain things and the mind is fully persuaded of that, then the normal thing will be for the conscience to respond in keeping with that which the mind is persuaded of right or wrong. Our conscience guides us right only in proportion to rightness of the standard we have accepted as our guide. Therefore, the knowledge of God's Word is important and an absolute necessity as a guide to the conscience. We are in a mess today because we have not been taught.

When we speak of our conscience as being the ultimate guide, we speak of it as being a faculty of man which ultimately guides the man. By this we are not saying that the conscience will always be a right guide. When a person acts rightly, it will be his conscience that finally becomes his ultimate guide

in making that right action. Sometimes when a person does wrong his conscience hurts him, if he was taught that such an action was wrong. The conscience is the ultimate guide but it may not be an accurate guide, depending on the standard he was brought up with--because he may not have been subject to proper revelations--the Word of God. For one to do right his conscience must be subject to proper revelation--the Word of God.

If a person is raised in heathenism where wars abound and revenge was the custom taught from youth up, and if that young man's father was killed in war, his conscience will drive home to him to avenge his father's death upon one who killed him, even if the fight was fair and square. We know from the standard we have been taught, that this is wrong but this young man has never been taught this is wrong. Therefore, his conscience will hurt him if he does not avenge his father's death. Question: Was his conscience his ultimate guide? Yes. Was it an accurate guide? No. But it still guided him because of the standard he was brought up with. Therefore, conscience is a very important part of the moral nature. This means that a person must be taught the Word of God so that there will be fuel for fire--information for salvation. The conscience will always act improperly if it is not brought into subjection to the Word of God.

3. Will--the third part of the basic moral nature of man.

The will is the soul's power to choose between motives and to direct the activity according to the motive chosen. Therefore, it is the soul's power to choose the end and the means to attain it. Man does not have a free will. You may say he does and will mark off as a heretic those who say he does not have a free will. Some say man has a volition--means the act of willing the act of determining choice. Others say man is a free moral agent--means he has the ability to choose. Yet the bottom line is that the natural man, who is influenced to the point of control, makes the wrong choice every time. But he does it of his own volition--voluntary.

Even though man's will is voluntary, it is not independent of his nature. Your nature influences your choice or decision. Even God's will is not independent of His nature. God cannot lie. We learn that from Scripture. Romans 3:4 *"God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged."* John 14:6 *"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* Does that mean that God has to restrain Himself to keep from lying because it would be morally wrong? No! You immediately understand that God does not desire to lie. He is God and that is His nature. You might desire to lie because of your fallen nature. But God cannot desire to lie because His nature is one of perfect holiness. Therefore, we conclude that His will is not independent of His nature and neither is yours. His will will always act in correspondence to His Divine Nature.

The same is true of man--we do not have a divine nature. Man's will is subject to His nature. This could be where we say man does not have a free will--it is subject to his nature. His nature influences him to make the wrong choice. But when God awakens you or moves on you, something inside helps you to make the right choice. Psalm 110:3a *"Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power. . ."* Do you know why we are in a mess today? Not too many people have character because they are not brought up with a standard--Word of God.

There are men who choose constantly to steal and enjoy doing it. What does that reveal? Some say, "A deep need." No! It reveals the character of the person possessing the will. In other words the will is simply the power or preference of the soul being shown--showing forth what he really is down inside. The act of the will will be determined by two factors: 1) motive, 2) character.

Example: If you are driving down the road and see a new car and you get a desire for a new car. Immediately you are smitten with car fever. You would like to have a new car and you are motivated by your lust for that car. You look over your budget and say I cannot afford it. If I buy it, I cannot pay my bills. Therefore, you choose--decide--will--I am not going to buy that car. What happened? Your motive was not changed--the desire was still there. But your character came into action and said no. It would not be prudent to do so, because I have bills to pay and must meet my responsibility. Another might say I will steal that car and did. The motives of both are the same--both desired the car. But their character acted differently. The one who said I cannot afford it showed character based upon the Word. That person's will acted negatively concerning acquiring the car while the one who stole the car, his will acted positively. Your character said no--I must put this motive or desire under subjection. At that point, you voluntarily of your own volition decided against the car. While the other person acted in the direction he willed and thus acted voluntarily.

In every act of the will we make a choice between two or more actions and it is our character that determines which of these actions we choose. Man before he fell had action of his will. And after the fall, man still acts according to his will but it is subject to his character. All acts of the will are an expression of the character. The mistake that is made is that the will is a faculty suspended within us and it acts arbitrarily "eny meny minie mo." This is expressed by saying that a man has a free will. But in reality man's will is influenced to the point of control by the world, devil, and flesh. (Ephesians 2:2-3; read in Bible) Therefore, man can not and will not exercise his will correctly unless influenced by the power of God Psalm 110:3a "*Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power. . .*"-- thus natural man's will is not free.

Therefore, we conclude that the moral nature of man has three faculties, intellect, conscience, and will and we must be exposed to the right standard--the Word of God and right upbringing. Proverbs 22:6 "*Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*" This allows the Lord to plow the soil of our hearts and loose us from the influence of the world, devil, and flesh so we can make the right choices--choose life and God will get all the glory. Deuteronomy 30:19 "*I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.*"

This completes section I. Soteriology man's fall. Also soteriology:

II. Deals with the means and action of God delivering man from the fall.

A. God's work for fallen man.

This deals with God's plan of redemption of fallen man. God has always had one plan. When was this plan formulated? In eternity past in the council hall of God before the earth was ever hung out on nothing, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit met. God the Father said, "I am going to create an earth and man to glorify me." Isaiah 43:7 *"Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him."* "I will make him and he will fall in sin and need to be delivered from the fall--redeemed. The Son who was present with Him (John 1:1 *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."*) possibly said, "I will provide the sacrifice" knowing full well it involved being robed in flesh (virgin birth) and dying on the cross of Calvary in man's stead. The Father may have said, "But man will not come to me on his own without an influence" and the Holy Ghost said, "I will produce all that is needed in him to enable him to come." The redemption plan was settled in the council hall of God in eternity past and I Peter 1:18-20 says so. *"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you."*

Therefore, Jesus is not after thought as many from different dispensations say. They say there are seven different ways man is saved. I do not know the seven ways of salvation they teach nor have I studied them for they are in error--counterfeit. I want to just study the truth not error. I know man has divided time into seven dispensations and there are seven natural divisions of time found in the Bible. But the Bible gives us only two dispensations of time in Hebrews 1:1-2. *"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds."* They are time past and last days with the cross dividing the two.

So God started His plan in action. Genesis 1:1 *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."* This included the angels. Job 26:7 *"He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing."* It is hard to hang the earth on nothing but God did. And Job 38:4-7 (*"Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?"*) tells us a little about the earth's creation of which the angels (sons of God) shouted for joy. But something happened between Genesis 1 verse 1 and verse 2 for the angels did not shout over a chaotic earth. Genesis 1:2a *"And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. . ."* There is a gap--something happened. I believe Lucifer fell from heaven. Isaiah 14:12 *"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!"* Rev. 12:3-4 *"And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born."* And God cursed the earth. The Lord speaks through types--the earth was created perfect, sin entered and it became cursed. Man was created perfect, sin entered and man was cursed. Both had to be redeemed.

As far as the earth is concerned the Spirit of God began to move upon this earth. Genesis 1:2 *"And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.* This brought about the six days (24 hour days) of creation. On the sixth day He made man in His image, in perfection with the ability to choose. Genesis 1:26 *"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth."* He gave Adam one law with teeth. Genesis 2:16-17 *"And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."* "Surely" means certainty. Man sinned--broke God's law. This did not take God by surprise. God spoke His plan of redemption in Genesis 3:15 *"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."* The seed of the woman refers to the virgin birth. Thou shalt bruise his heel refers to a temporary wound representing Calvary. It shall bruise thy head refers to a permanent wound representing the resurrection.

Adam died spiritually when he ate of the forbidden tree and God sacrificed an animal, probably a lamb to make Adam and Eve a covering. Genesis 3:21 *"Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them."* This was a picture of the Lord Jesus--the innocent dying for the guilty. The type did not take away their sin but only covered their nakedness, but it pictured the Lord Jesus as John the Baptist said in John 1:29. (*"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."*) Man was cast out of the garden. (Genesis 3:22-24; read in Bible) This period of time is called by man--innocence.

Then we enter in to a period of time man calls conscience which lasted 1656 years. Sacrifices were made from the beginning but it was never God's intention for OT sacrifices to save--to take away man's sin. God's cure--Jesus the supreme sacrifice. But there was enmity between *"thy seed and the seed of the woman."* (Genesis 3:15) Adam and Eve had two sons, Cain and Abel which represented two ways of coming to God by the sacrifices they offered. Cain offered the works of his hands which God would not accept. Ephesians 2:9 *"Not of works, lest any man should boast."* Abel offered a blood sacrifice which pictured the coming Redeemer and God accepted his sacrifice. Cain killed Abel due to the devil's influence trying to destroy the seed of the woman. All this did not take God by surprise for Adam and Eve had Seth--the godly lineage determined in the council hall of God. The devil then began to corrupt mankind and the godly percentage got smaller and smaller.

Man waxed worse and worse. Depravity was widespread--it was inward, continual, and habitual. Man was utterly corrupt, bad in heart, and in conduct there was no good in him. Genesis 6:5 *"And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."* But through all those years God had a remnant--a witness. Genesis 6:8 *"But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD."* Noah walked with God and God told him to build an ark and instructed him how and made a covenant with him, that his family would survive the flood He was going to send to destroy the earth. The devil thought he had succeeded in destroying the seed of the woman. But Noah and his family entered the ark he had built and survived the flood--a remnant.

Now we enter the man made division of time called human government. Noah got off the ark and God made a covenant with him. The first thing he did was offer blood sacrifices of the clean animals

God had told Noah to carry on the ark. Genesis 8:20 *"And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar."* He was commanded to be fruitful and multiply. Genesis 9:1 *"And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth."* God set up capital punishment. Genesis 9:5-6 *"And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man. Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man."* This command is still in effect today and capital punishment is not murder as some say.

Noah was given a token of the covenant--a rainbow--promise the earth will not be destroyed with a flood again. (Genesis 9:12-16; read in Bible) The devil tried to destroy the seed of the woman by influencing Noah to get drunk which led to Ham possibly committing a homosexual act on his father. But this act brought a curse on the descendants of Ham. (Genesis 9:20-25; read in Bible) What Ham did did not take God by surprise for He was working according to plan.

Then the devil influenced mankind to try to build a tower to heaven. (Genesis 11:3-4; read in the Bible) This pictures works for salvation. Works is not God's way. So God confounded their language so that they could not understand one another's speech. Thus the work ceased. (Genesis 11:5-9; read in the Bible) 427 years passed during this period man has labeled as human government.

Then we find the descendants of Shem in the Ur of Chaldees also called Mesopotamia--the land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. This place is close to where the garden of Eden was, yet the people were in idolatry. We do not know all that happened but God appeared to Abram and told him what to do. Acts 7:3 *"And said unto him, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and come into the land which I shall shew thee."* I believe a human instrument, Shem, went and preached the God of heaven to his descendants--this is God's way. Romans 10:14-15a *"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent. . .?"* It seems that Abram was the only one who had an ear to hear. He believed that God exists which was intellectual faith. Hebrews 11:6 *"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."* Intellectual faith leads to seeking faith. Hebrews 11:8, 10 *"By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."* He may have been about 43 years of age and was lost yet he obeyed as best he could what the Lord told him to do. The Bible says his father took Abram. Genesis 11:31 *"And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there."* Abram said I am leaving Ur and Terah said I am going too. He did not want to disrespect his father. He did not know what to do. The devil made it so complicated and he does for you as well.

The Lord tells you what to do and you try to do as He says and sometimes your family will pull you this way and that way. And it may not be bad from the world's standpoint but it keeps you from obeying the directions the Lord has given you. The devil will complicate things--he does not want you to get to the seed. But in Abram's day he was trying to destroy the seed. God carried His plan

through and completed it right on time. Galatians 4:4 *"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law."*

The problem is that Abram did not really obey God. He did not leave his family behind and they influenced him to stop at Haran which is still in Mesopotamia--he did not leave his country. He was not saved and he had not heard about the seed. A person can not believe what he has not heard about. Abram stayed in Haran possibly 32 years. And when he was 75 years old his father died.

Then began another period of time man called the dispensation of promise which lasted 430 years. When Abram's father died the Lord spoke to Abram and told him more than what was recorded 32 years before in Ur. Genesis 12:1-3 *"Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."* Abram left Haran but carried his nephew Lot with him--still God was good to him. Romans 2:4 *"Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"* He spoke to Abram and enlarged the promise. Genesis 12:7-8 *"And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him. And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD."* This time God spoke of the "seed" for the first time and Sarai was barren. He built an altar and called on the name of the Lord but he was still not saved.

Abram was tested by a famine and went to Egypt where he passed off his wife as his sister--half truth, half lie. Yet God protected him and enriched Him. Again God was good to him. Romans 2:4 *"Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"* He came back to Bethel. Genesis 13:4 *"Unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the LORD."* Strife begin between the herdsmen of Lot and Abram. Some would say the devil caused it but really God was in these circumstances. Abram told Lot they needed to separate and gave him first choice of land. Lot, full of greed, chose the well watered plains of Jordan. Remember Abram was not saved at this time. (Gen. 13:10-11; read in the Bible)

Then God spoke to Abram again and enlarged His promise. Genesis 13:14-17 *"And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered. Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee."* He was still not saved but he was not passive (set idly by and let the world go by), but active--he had trained 318 of his servants. And when Sodom and the cities of the plains were overrun by Chedorlaomer and his confederacy of kings, the people were taken captive including Lot. Then Abram with his 318 trained armed servants and some help of his neighbors went after the confederacy and recovered all the spoils--Lot and all the other captives.

On the way back from the battle Abram met Melchizedek, a type of the Lord, and he paid him tithes of all the spoil. (Genesis 14:18-20; read in the Bible) The king of Sodom wanted to give Abram the rest of the spoils taken in battle. But Abram said in Genesis 14:22-23. *"And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth, That I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich."* Then the Lord spoke to Abram again. Genesis 15:1 *"After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward."* He was still not saved at this time and He being frustrated and not completely understanding what the Lord's promise was saying. Genesis 15:2-3 *"And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus? And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir."* But the Lord answered in Genesis 15:4-5 *"And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be."* Then saving faith came and Abram was saved. Genesis 15:6 *"And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness."* His salvation is verified three times in the NT. Romans 4:3 *"For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness."* Galatians 3:6 *"Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."* James 2:23 *"And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God."*

Even though Abram is now saved the devil still tries to corrupt the seed--really wanted to destroy it. So Sarai was used by the devil to get Abram to help God out. Genesis 16:1-2 *"Now Sarai Abram's wife bare him no children: and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar. And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai."* And Ishmael was born. Look at God's prophecy concerning him. Genesis 16:12 *"And he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren."* Yet God is still in control and he appeared to Abram as Almighty God in Gen. 17 and changed his name to Abraham and reaffirmed His promise concerning the seed. Abraham was saved but wavering in faith. Genesis 17:18 *"And Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee!"* But Abraham responded like mentioned in Romans 4:19-21. *"And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform."* Really he saw the seed--the Lord. John 8:56 *"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad."* He was 99 years old and nine month's later Isaac was born.

The devil tried to keep Isaac single so no offspring would be born. He was shy and backward, yet Abraham sent for him a wife--Rebekah. Isaac and Rebekah had twins--Esau and Jacob. There was jealousy between them. Jacob tricked Esau into giving up his birthright and stole his blessing with the help of his mother. Then Jacob had to flee for his life.

He met God at Bethel in Gen. 28 but he was not saved until 20 years later. He worked for Laban 20 years for his wives, cattle, and flocks. One day God spoke to Jacob. Genesis 31:12-13 *"And he*

said, *Lift up now thine eyes, and see, all the rams which leap upon the cattle are ringstraked, speckled, and grisled: for I have seen all that Laban doeth unto thee. I am the God of Bethel, where thou anointedst the pillar, and where thou vowedst a vow unto me: now arise, get thee out from this land, and return unto the land of thy kindred.*" He had by this time, eleven sons and he was not saved. He was about 95 years old. On the way back to Bethel he met God at Peniel (Brook Jabbok) and was saved. (Gen. 32) The Lord changed his name to Israel--prince of God. God caused his brother to make peace with him. From that time on his life began to change--he lived for God.

Jacob's favorite son was Joseph, to whom he gave a coat of many colors. Joseph had two dreams that indicated his brothers were going to bow down to him. This made the brothers angry and there came a day they put Joseph in a pit and then sold him to the Ishmeelites who sold him into slavery in Egypt. The devil was trying to kill Joseph--trying to destroy the seed. But for 13 years (pit, Potiphar's house, and prison) he was in the perfect will of God. When he was taken from prison, he was put second in command in Egypt. Joseph was used of God to prepare a place where God could shut up His people by bringing them into Egypt in the land of Goshen where they would remain pure.

God's plan is still at work. 215 years or midway through the man made dispensation called promise, Jacob--Israel and his family moved to Egypt due to the famine. They were placed to themselves in the land so that they would not intermingle with the Egyptians. Therefore, they would remain pure.

Then Joseph died and another (heteros; another of a different kind--not an Egyptian; probably of Syrian descent) king arose which knew not Joseph. Acts 7:17-18 *"But when the time of the promise drew nigh, which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt, Till another king arose, which knew not Joseph."* This king (Pharaoh) put Israel in servitude and had all the boy babies killed. In this way, the Devil's way, he thought, to destroy the seed. But it was God's way to purify a people. Talk about hard times, they stayed in servitude over 80 years. Moses was born 64 years after Joseph died and he was 80 years old when he was saved at the burning bush and then came to deliver his people. God through Moses put demands on Pharaoh to let His people go. Instrumentally God hardened Pharaoh's heart by forcing him to an issue against which he hardened his own heart in refusal. Light rejected, rightful obedience refused, inevitably hardens conscience and heart. God sent 10 plagues upon Egypt by the hand of Moses--river turned to blood, frogs, lice, flies, murrain on cattle, sore boils on men, fire mingled with hail, locust, darkness, and the firstborn would die in every house where the blood was not applied. The Devil tried to destroy the people of God but after the 10th plague, they came out victorious.

This began the dispensation man has labeled as law which lasted 1490 years, ending at the cross. The children of Israel were set free by the blood applied which pictured the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ shed on Calvary. Note: The Lord's blood must be applied on one for him to be saved. Three days had not passed till the Devil influenced Pharaoh to over take the children of Israel. God was leading them and protecting them. Exodus 13:17-18, 21 *"And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt: But God led the people about, through the way of the wilderness of the Red sea: and the children of Israel went up harnessed out of the land of Egypt. And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night."*

God again delivered them at the Red Sea by power--He dried up a crossing. The children of Israel walked over on dry ground and the Egyptians were drowned. They had pursued after the Israelites into the sea. It was God's will for the children of Israel to wander in the wilderness for two years, during which time God gave the law and instructions to build the tabernacle, all of which pictured God's plan of redemption.

While Moses was in the mount receiving the law, the Devil was working in the camp by stirring up the people to cause Aaron to build a golden calf to worship. But up in the mount God was working. Exodus 32:9-14 *"And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people: Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation. And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand? Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it for ever. And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people."* All of this did not take God by surprise. Moses was from the tribe of Levi and Jacob had already prophesied. Genesis 49:10 *"The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be."* The Lord knew all the time what He would do. Exodus 32:14 said *"the Lord repented"* which means He changed His course of action yet He knew beforehand what He would do. This was written for man's benefit. He was testing Moses which strengthened him for he interceded for the people. An example: (Luke 24:28-29 *"And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further. But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them."* That is what Jesus wanted the men to do--to constrain Him. He wanted them to make a move to stop Him. Oh! May we make a move to constrain Him to abide with us.

After two years of wondering in the wilderness the children of Israel came to Kadesh Barnea. The Lord brought them out to bring them in. Deuteronomy 6:23 *"And he brought us out from thence, that he might bring us in, to give us the land which he swore unto our fathers."* Instead of going into the land of Canaan, they got a committee to check out the land. The people listened to the ten who refused to enter in. As a result the nation had to wander in the wilderness 38 more years during which time all over 20 years of age died. They murmured and complained but God was good to them.

The glory of God was with them, represented by a cloud by day and pillar of fire by night. The Devil influenced Balak, king of Moab, to hire Balaam to curse the children of Israel--to get the glory of God off them. God would not let Balaam do such a thing so he convinced the women of Moab to commit fornication with the men of Israel and God took His glory off.

The people murmured against God and Moses time and again. Toward the end of their wanderings they were without water to drink. God told Moses to speak to the rock but in anger Moses smote the rock. This broke God's type--Jesus was only to be smitten once and then spoken to. But God was still good to the people by giving them water but told Moses he could not enter Canaan because of what he had done. So Moses died at 120 years of age and God buried him. Deuteronomy 34:6 *"And he buried*

him in a valley in the land of Moab, over against Bethpeor: but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day."

The second generation of Israel entered victoriously into Canaan under the leadership of Joshua. They did not conquer all the land like God told them to. The reason they did not conquer is because they got preoccupied with material things.

When Joshua's influence was gone, there came dark days. Judges 21:25 *"In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes."* But God raised up judges such as Gideon and Samson who had victories in their area of the country. Then came Eli's day, he was a judge and a priest and let his children have their own way. They took the ark of God into battle without God's direction and the ark was taken by the enemy. 1 Samuel 4:22 *"The glory is departed from Israel, for the ark is taken."*

God raised up Samuel but the people wanted a king like other nations. This action meant they were rejecting God as their king. Then the nation was divided after Solomon's day and Jeroboam, king of the Northern Kingdom made two golden calves for Israel to worship and the kings that followed him did the same--they waxed worse and worse. They were told they would go into captivity unless they repented. The result was that the ten tribes of the Northern kingdom went into Assyrian captivity in 721 BC and they lost their identity.

Two of the tribes formed the Southern kingdom and was called Judah--the dominate tribe through which the Messiah would come. They were told by the prophets that they needed to take heed to what happened to their brothers in Israel or they also would go into captivity to Babylon for 70 years. But they had some kings that were blinded by the god of this world and they plunged the nation of Judah into Babylonian captivity which had its beginning in 609 BC. Even in captivity there was a remnant which stayed true such as Daniel, the three Hebrew boys who were thrown into the fiery furnace, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Zerubbabel, Nehemiah, Haggai, and Zachariah to name a few.

Jerusalem and the temple was destroyed in 586 BC. In 539BC the Median Persian empire overthrew the Babylonian empire and King Cyrus allowed the Jews who were willing to go back to Jerusalem where they constructed the second temple under the leadership of Zerubbabel. They started building but got side-tracked because they were more concerned with their own houses than they were with building God's house--their priorities were wrong.

God sent Haggai and Zachariah, prophets, to stir up the people to build the temple and they finished it in 516 BC. Later Nehemiah had a burden to build a wall around Jerusalem so they would be protected as the people worshiped. My! How the Devil stirred the enemy up to stop that, but God was in control and the wall was built in record time. This resulted in a revival in Nehemiah's time. But by Malachi's day the nation got in such bad condition that God did not speak to the nation for 400 years--there is no open revelation recorded between Malachi and Matthew.

But there was a remnant that went through those dark days. They stayed true to God and passed on truth. We know this by Luke 1:6 *"And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless."* Zacharias was righteous before God and ministered as a priest in the temple. Also Mary was part of that remnant. Luke 1:26-28 *"And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary."*

And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women." Both Joseph and Mary were of the house of David--descendants of Judah. The virgin Mary gave birth to Jesus right on time. Galatians 4:4 *"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law."* Jesus the Messiah was the seed of the woman. Genesis 3:15 *"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."*

God was faithful and maintained the lineage of Judah just like He had planned in spite of the devil, flesh, and the world. (Luke 2:1-11, read in Bible) God's work for fallen man involved bringing forth His Son through a virgin's womb so He would not have man's fallen nature; therefore, He would qualify as our sin bearer on Calvary. The Devil could not stop it though he tried.

Man had looked for the Messiah to come--the anointed One, the Christ. Yet they had preconceived ideas what He would be like. They, for the most part, thought the Messiah would come and deliver them from the Roman oppression. They did not understand the humiliation of Jesus which Paul describes in Philippians 2:5-8. *"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."* Verse 7a states He *"made himself of no reputation."* "Reputation" means to empty. To empty something you got to have it full. Jesus, who was fully God, by a voluntary act, emptied Himself of the outward manifestation of Deity, not inwardly.

Jesus was God in eternity past. John 1:1 *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."* "Was" means existence without origin. He was God as a baby, as a boy, and on the cross. All He laid aside was the outward manifestation of deity and robed Himself in flesh. This is called Incarnation--God robed in flesh. If He had not laid aside the outward manifestation of deity, we could not have looked upon Him. When He was transfigured, Mat. 17:2 says, *"And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light."* He made Himself of no reputation for fallen man.

Verse 7b states He, *"took upon him the form of a servant."* "Servant" is the word for bondsman--the most despicable form of a servant. Jesus came to minister and He demonstrated that to His apostles when He washed their feet--a servant's job. John 13:4-5 *"He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded."* This demonstrated His love for fallen man.

Verse 7c states He, *"was made in the likeness of men."* "Was made" means to come into existence. This same word is used in John 1:14a. *"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us. . ."* This refers to Jesus, who was God, who took on Himself flesh through the virgin's womb. He did not take the blood of man which was tainted, He had God's blood which was pure. Hebrews 2:14 *"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil."*

Verse 8a states, *"And being found in fashion as a man,"* which means to be recognized as man during the time of His earthly life when He appeared as a man among men. Verse 8b states, *"He humbled himself,"* which refers to His submission to death which God had for Him. John 10:17-18

"Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

Verse 8c states, He *"became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."* This is what He came for and He said, *"I have set my face like a flint."* (Isaiah 50:7b) The devil tried to kill Him time and time again. In Nazareth they tried to throw Him off a cliff. Luke 4:30 *"But he passing through the midst of them went his way.* In Jerusalem, the Pharisees got so angry at what Jesus said that they tried to stone Him. John 8:59 *"Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by."* The reason they could not kill Him was because *"My time is not yet come."* (John 7:6) But He became obedient to the death of the cross because that was God's plan.

The cross indicated a very terrible, torturing death. It was considered a curse on any man who was impaled on a tree. Deuteronomy 21:23 *"His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance."* Jesus' death on the cross was not a martyr's death but the death of a criminal and He did that for us. 1 John 2:2 *"And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.* "Propitiation" means sacrifice, substitute, and mercy seat.

Hebrews 5:8 (*"Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered."*) is a strange verse. Suffering was Jesus' lot. In John 6 they wanted to make Him king but it was not time yet. Before that in Mat. 4, the devil tried to give Him the kingdoms of the world but it wasn't time yet. The Jews, even though they were expecting the Messiah to come, they did not expect Him to have to suffer as He did.

He suffered being betrayed by a friend. Psalm 41:9 *"Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me."* He suffered in the garden as He faced the cup of our sin and sweat *"as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground."* (Luke 22:44) He suffered at the hand of the Sanhedrin with an unlawful trial. He suffered at the hands of Roman soldiers as they scourged Him, crowned Him with thorns, and nailed Him to the cross.

When He was lifted up He said, *"Father forgive them for they know not what they do."* Luke 23:34 We need to make that personal for He did that for me and you--for fallen man. And He did it right on time, not one second early or one second late.

After paying our sin debt while He hung on that cross by a miracle of God that I do not understand and cannot explain, He said, *"It is finished."* (John 19:30) Then He dismissed His own spirit and died. Luke 23:46 *"And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost."* He was buried but He rose again after three days and nights and ascended back to heaven to the right hand of the Father--forty days after the resurrection. He suffered greatly and He knows what we are going through and He understands us. Hebrews 4:15 *"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."* He also is praying for us at the right hand of the Father. Hebrews 7:25 *"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."* He has prayed, is praying, and will pray for us.

He loves us and died for us (Romans 5:8 *"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*) even though we are His enemies. Romans 5:10 *"For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life."* His love for us is a foreign kind of love. 1 John 3:1 *"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not."* Before He went to the cross He told His disciples that He was going to take care of them. John 14:16-17 *"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."* He sent the Holy Spirit who is another comforter just like He was. And on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Ghost indwelt every believer. The devil could not stop Him then and he can not stop Him now. This is what God has done to redeem fallen man. The ransom has been paid, the blood has been shed on Calvary, but it must be applied just as it was in Exodus 12 to set the captives free. This also takes a work of God and that brings us to the next point in this message-- Volume 2.

If you do not have Volume 2 of "The Doctrine of Soteriology" and would like to receive it as well as the series of the message on 23 cds, then contact us. There is no charge.

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