

## **The Three Eternal Destinies #217**

### ***The Predominance of Sin is the Reign of Death, Part 4***

Rom 5:14-21 — Death still reigns even after the Law of Moses, but not over the Holy who have passed out of death and into life (1 Jn 3:14; Jn 5:24). The holy ones are those who do the will of God in their daily community life. 1 Jn 2:17 — All who are *doing* the will of God have eternal life (Mk 3:31-35).

1 Jn 3:2 — We are now the sons of God (Rom 8:14). To be led by the Spirit is to do the will of God, and to do the will of God is to do what is necessary to bring about His will on the earth (Mt 6:9-10). And this can only be done by doing the works prepared for those who have eternal life (the sons of God) to spend their lives in doing (Eph 2:10; 4:16). And this brings about Eph 2:21-22, which is Rev 21:3, so that the corporate Immanuel can rule the universe (God with men, i.e., the men of the nations).

All this, of course, takes the Community of the Redeemed living and working together, having all things in common (Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-35), with no poor among them (Dt 15:4-5). This is the only way for anyone to do the will of God. It takes a family living together (Mk 3:31-35). If anyone would dare to claim to know Him otherwise, he is a liar and the truth is not in him, for there is no other way to do His will than to obey His commandments (1 Jn 2:4), and to obey His commandments is to be a community as the original community in Jerusalem and Judea (1 Ths 2:14). What is a *follower* of the churches of God in Judea? A *follower* is #3402 — one who does exactly what the one he follows does, which is the only way the church can be — the way it was when it was called “The Way.” And Acts 2:44 and 4:32 is the way it was and the way it still is if it is the truth and not a lie.

Mk 8:34 and 10:21 is to follow Yahshua, which requires the Holy Spirit’s power to cleave to Him in truth and obedience. The ones cleaving to Him are also following His leading, acting according to His example (Jn 8:12; 10:4,5,27), which requires self denial

and fellowship (Mt 8:19-20; 10:38; Jn 12:25-26). Verse 25 always comes before verse 26 (Mt 9:9; 19:21), and this is only as real as Acts 2:42-45 and 4:32-35, as all did as the example we all follow in Acts 4:36-37. This is why Acts 4:34 is the fulfillment of Dt 15:4 by doing what Dt 15:5 says one must do. The *IFs* in Dt 15:5,7 as in Col 1:23 are the prerequisite to verse 22.

Let me remind you again: In Jn 9:41, *remain* means for eternity. So also, in 1 Jn 2:4 a liar ends up in Rev 21:8. A liar does not have truth in him (Jn 18:37) and cannot hear Yahshua's voice. But every Christian in the world is a liar if being a Christian means one claims to see or know Him. Only if you are a Christian and do *not* claim to see or to know Him will you come to judgment to determine your eternal destiny based on your works or deeds in this world. But you are a liar if you claim to see and to know Him or to believe in Him and do not obey His commandments (which is impossible outside of the Body of Messiah on earth, which can only be lived out or expressed in a community, as Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-37). Heb 3:6,13; 1 Jn 3:14,16,23; Jn 13:34-35; 17:21-23 — See, you can't even attempt to do this in Christianity, which is false, a lie told to the world (Jn 13:35; 17:23; Eph 4:1-6).

Rom 5:15-18 talks about a "free gift" (KJV, #5486). The word *free* is not there in the Greek, and other translations, such as the NIV, do not include it. The word is *charisma*, derived from *charis* (grace) and *ma*, indicating the result of grace — a gift of grace given to one who is willing to do His will, so that he will be able to *know* (Jn 7:17) when he is put in a situation or circumstance where he can meet a righteous disciple. Mt 10:40-41 is grace. Another way of using the word *grace* is *gift* in 1 Tim 4:4 or Rom 1:11 or 1 Pet 4:10.

So we can see that *salvation* is not a "free gift," but *grace* is. Salvation is a gift, but much is required to have this gift of eternal life (Mk 10:17-22; Lk 14:26,33) — not having a cause to reject the water of life (Rev 22:17). To not reject the Giver of life, one must do what Mk 8:34-37 says. What did the rich young ruler *not* do to have eternal life?

So grace is a gift not even considered, as when a disciple picks up a hitchhiker, and vice-versa. It was grace to meet a disciple who had obeyed the gospel (Acts 5:32), who after receiving grace and then faith when he heard the words of life, responded and obeyed the gospel, and was saved. Eph 2:8-10 — Saved for what? To do the works prepared for a disciple to do in the Body to build it up for the dwelling place of God eternally. If one is not doing this, he is not doing the will of God, and is not saved (1 Jn 2:17).

If nothing is required to follow Yahshua, then there is nothing one will do or can do to do His will. Nothing else is required than to ask Jesus into your heart. There is no overcoming for one to receive Billy Graham's gospel, no obedience necessary, no giving up anything, no commandments to obey (Mt 28:18-20).

So is "salvation" a free gift? Grace is, and faith comes by hearing, if one can hear. If one has ears to hear, he is blessed and receives faith. Salvation has been paid for in full by our Master's sacrifice on our behalf (2 Cor 5:14-15,21), but over on our side is there anything we have to do except believe? Rev 21:6-8 — One has to overcome fear or dread, as the rich young ruler could not do (Mk 10:21-22). This is what he had to do to receive the "free gift." It was free and paid for, but on his side, he had to overcome to be without a cause to reject it.

So what does *believe* mean? Does it mean the other side of 2 Cor 5:15 — that I no longer live for myself, but for Him? What does that entail? Am I doing it? Have I received the free gift without cost? Is there a cost involved on His side and my side also?

What is a new creature? Am I a new creature? I am a *creature*, but am I a *new* one? *New* is #2537, as in Rev 21:1,5, a new heavens and a new earth. "Behold, I make all things *new*." This means the same as 2 Cor 5:17 means, as the universe made up of planets will be made new. We are all created as creatures. I am a creature. I am the sum total of what has been created as being a human being. I am an individual creature of what has been created.

Our Master Yahshua was a creature, but He was a *new* creature — the new man or second man, the “second Adam.” As Adam was the first man, the first creature made in the image of the invisible God and Creator, so also Yahshua was the firstborn of every *new* creature. Yahshua was the New Creature, the perfect image and likeness of God, the Father (Jn 14:7,9). So a creature is created by the Creator.

Yahshua was created or formed in the womb of His mother, impregnated by the pure human seed, a pure created human seed inherited from no other man but His Father, by the Holy Spirit (Lk 1:35). In the creature Yahshua dwelled the divine Word incarnate. As Col 1:16 says, Yahshua could not have created Himself. Only the invisible One of the invisible God could create a second Adam, a new creature at birth, not having to be born again in order to be a new creature, as we were.

Col 1:15-17 — The firstborn of every creature speaks of our Master as a human being, the new creature, as we the old must be transformed into by 2 Cor 5:17). In 2 Cor 5:17, *new* is *kainos* (#2537), qualitatively new, as contrasted with numerically new (*neos*, #3501), just as the universe will be changed qualitatively, not altogether a new substance or numerically new, but changed and transformed (Ps 102:26; Heb 1:12; 1 Cor 15:51-52). So in 2 Cor 5:17, the old creature is changed into a qualitatively new creature by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and His transforming work in us day after day until 1 Jn 3:1-3 (2 Cor 3:18).

1 Cor 15:52 — We are now changed in our *spiritual* nature which affects our whole being, but then we will be changed to be *physically* incorruptible. Now, at this present time, we’re being changed (#3339) into the same image as Col 1:15, from glory to glory until Jn 3:2-3, as we turn into His exact same likeness — into the image of God Himself — as the Holy Spirit (salvation) does its full work. Our transformation (#3339) is a miracle, just as the transformation in the vision of Mt 17:2-9, which is like what we will be changed into in the age to come (1 Cor 15:51-52).