



Fullness of Provision

In the beginning God created man in His image and likeness, and placed him in the Garden of full provision—Eden. He was without lack, and one who was destined to rule and dominate the earth in His righteousness. There was a full provision for man to do the will of God, but in time Adam and Eve choose to disobey God, consequently, they were judged and forced out of the Garden of Eden—their home of provision, promise and prosperity. Tragically, they slipped into a world of certain death, disease and sin.

However some four thousand years later, because of love for the world, God gave His only Son to redeem mankind from the judgment of eternal death and to reposition Him into his former full provision of eternal life and peace.

At precisely 3:00 PM on the 14th, month of Nisan (Jewish Religious Calendar), the High Priest ascended the altar in the Temple, took his knife, and killed the Passover lamb, pronouncing the words, “It is finished.” At exactly the same moment, Jesus on the cross declared, “It is finished”, and then commended his spirit to God. Otherwise, everything that could be done for the salvation of mankind was completed.

“[It is finished] As if he had said: ‘I have executed the great designs of the Almighty—I have satisfied the demands of his justice—I have accomplished all that was written in the prophets, and suffered the utmost malice of my enemies; and now the way to the Holy of Holies is made manifest through my blood.’ An awful, yet a glorious finish. Through this tragic death God is reconciled to man, and the kingdom of heaven opened to every believing soul. Shout heaven and earth, this SUM of good to MAN!” (Adam Clark)

Because of the faithfulness of Jesus Christ to do the will of God, man was transferred out of the dominion of darkness into the kingdom of His Beloved Son, that is into His full provision of eternal life, power, peace and prosperity. Paul writes that the believer is a “citizen” of the household of God, with full privileges, established on the foundation of Christ Jesus, the prophets and the apostles. Eph. 2:19-22. All citizens, according to the biblical constitution, equally share the life of God in Christ Jesus, His love, prosperity and power. Through a sovereign act of God, a person who has genuinely confessed Jesus as Lord and believed in their heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, has been placed into the wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption of God. Ro. 10:9,10; 1 Cor. 1:30. Are you a citizen of the kingdom of God? If so, then you have received all the privileges of that citizenship.

God has sealed us with the Holy Spirit of promise and though we do not visibly see all things subjected to us, we do see Jesus crowned with glory and honor, knowing what has been promised will come to pass in its season. Eph. 1:14; 2 Cor. 1:22; Heb. 2:9. At the right time God calls into existence things that are not (Ro. 4:17), but in the meantime we are faithful servants of His purpose, committed to do His will.

Through faith and by obedience, we have received the Holy Spirit of promise and adoption to become mature sons. Ro. 8:15. As we grow in Christ, putting off the deeds of the old nature and putting on the characteristics of the new nature, God in His own discretion appropriates His provision. Some benefits are according to the renewal of our mind and others are dependent upon His Grace. The grace gifts of 1 Cor. 12

operate through faith based upon His grace, not upon individual character development. Yet the effectiveness of the ministry gifts of Ro.12:6-8 and the Ascension gifts of Eph. 4:11 is according to the existing level of maturity. God in His Christ has fixed the upward path of the believer into full appropriation of His completeness.

Fullness

“And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all” Ephes. 1:22-23.

The word translated “fullness” is *pleroma*. This word is a Greek-picture word that described a ship that had been prepared for a voyage. It is filled with sailors, rowers, and soldiers and adequate provisions to reach its intended destination. This conception is applied to the church, the body of Christ. It is pervaded by His presence, animated by His life, filled with His gifts and energies and graces.

The church is the body of Christ. Only by revelation can anyone understand this marvelous fact. Paul in his letter to the Colossians declared, “For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority” (Col. 2:9,10). Three facts: the fullness of Deity dwells in Jesus, the church is made (created) complete and He is the head over all powers! If these things are true, and they are, the church is filled with all provision, power and presence of God. I pray that our eyes of understanding be enlightened to our wonderful divine environment. First there must be revelation, or a knowing, then there must be a personal acknowledgement of these facts, just as an accountant would write in his books what the bank statement has declared. Consequently, appropriation is made when a check is written in faith and signed by “in the name of Jesus”! First you see, second you accept what has been seen, third you release the appropriation by an act of faith.

In the Old Testament God appeared to Abraham as God Almighty or El Shadday, the two-breasted One, the Sustainer. “And I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name, LORD, I did not make Myself known to them” (Ex. 6:3). What was the difference in the special “name of God” that Moses received?

To Moses God revealed Himself as JHWH, or “HAYAH-HAYAH” a verb that means “to be-to be” or “I AM WHO I AM. The bible says, “This is My name forever, and this is My memorial-name to all generations” (Ex. 3:15). It is an eternal name that includes all God’s fullness. It is in JHWH (Jehovah) that God became the Savior of Israel, and as JHWH He saves the world: and this is the truth embodied in the name of Jesus, which is literally Jehovah-Savior.

To Israel God declared: I AM your Healer (Rapha - Ex. 15:26). I AM your Banner (Nissi - Ex. 17:15). I AM your Provider (Jireh - Gen. 22-14). I AM eternally present (Shammah - Ez. 48:35). I AM your Peace (Shalom - Jud. 6:24). I AM your Righteousness (Tsidkenu -Jer. 33:16). I AM your Shepherd (Raah - Psa. 23: 1). God is a NOW God for all of your provision.

To the world Jesus declared: I AM the Bread of Life (Jn. 6:48). I AM the Light of the world (Jn. 8:12). I AM the Door (Jn. 10:9). I AM the Good Shepherd (Jn. 10:11). I AM the Resurrection (Jn. 11:25). I AM the Way (Jn. 14:6). I AM the Truth (Jn. 14:6). I AM the Life (Jn. 14:6). Jesus is whatever you need when you need it. And this provision fills the church, His body.

The Lord was the Creator God to Adam, the Sustaining God to Abraham, the Delivering God to Moses and the Saving God to the world. God revealed Himself as ultimate Power, ultimate Provider and ultimate Performer.

Abraham on Mt. Moriah, as he was about to slice open the throat of his dear son Isaac, received a revelation of the Fullness of God’s provision. God stopped Abraham and caused him to see a ram caught in the thicket by his horns, and instead of offering Isaac as a sacrifice, he offered the ram instead. Abraham

called the name of the place, JHWH—JIREH, or The Lord will provide.

Then God swore by Himself: “Indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens, and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice” (Gen. 22:17, 18). Provision, prosperity, power and blessing was given to those who obey. Now compare this portion of scripture with Heb. 6:13-20. There are two unchangeable things that belong to the children of Abraham, and remember God cannot lie, “I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply you!”

Who are the children of Abraham? Paul clarifies this questions: “Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham...so then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer” (Gal. 3:7-9). The great promise that God made to Abraham is declared to be resident in the believer. How can we be assured that the promise is for the believer today? “In order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith” (Gal. 3:14). The blessing of Abraham is embodied in the Holy Spirit baptism. When you were filled with the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4), you were filled with the blessing of Abraham: I will surely bless you, I will surely multiply you, you shall have power over your enemies and through the Holy Spirit you will be a blessing to the world.

The Full provision of God is in Christ Jesus, His Beloved Son! God exalted Christ to His right hand, seated Him above all powers, and in order to bring the heavenly testimony to the earth (Acts 2:33), He poured forth the Holy Spirit of promise upon the 120 in Acts 2:1-4, the Samaritans in Acts 8:17; and the Gentiles in Acts 10:44. The Holy Spirit of provision abides within every believer!

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ” (Eph. 1:3).

“And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:19). Not only is Jesus the king of the kingdom of God, but He is the High Priest of the true tabernacle that is in the heavens, or the one who makes eternal intercession for every believer. He is High Priest, not on the basis of a law of physical requirement such as the high priests of the Old Testament, but according to the power of an indestructible life (Heb. 7:16). Jesus is the High Priest of our confession (Heb. 3:1), the great High Priest that passed through the heavens to make atonement for the world (Heb. 4:14), the eternal High Priest (Heb. 6:10), and a High Priest who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens (Heb. 8:1).

Jesus Christ appeared in heaven as a High Priest of good things to come. He entered the greater and more perfect tabernacle into the Holiest of Holies, not with the blood of animals, but with His own precious blood to obtain eternal redemption for all believers. Through the eternal Spirit He offered Himself without any blemish to God, in order that our conscience might forever be cleansed from dead works. (Heb. 9) We are having redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of trespasses, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. (Eph. 1:7)

Because Jesus was made in the likeness of man, he can sympathize with man’s weaknesses, even as He was tested in all things as man is tested for 3 ½ years, yet he passed through the tests without sin. Knowing this, we can come near the throne of grace at any time to receive mercy and help. (Heb. 4:15,16) Jesus is a compassionate High Priest, easily moved by your situation, and is more than ready to come to your rescue.

A New entrance made by Jesus into heaven

“Since therefore, brethren, we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since we have a great priest

over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water” (Hebrews 10:19-22). Understanding this passage of scripture requires some knowledge about how the Jew would think on the day of atonement, when the high priest went into the Holy of Holies with the blood of a selected goat and make atonement for the people.

When Paul approached the Roman (Gentile) jailer at Philippi, he said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved...(Acts 16:31). But in the letter to the Hebrews, Paul approached it differently. The exhortation to enter into the Holy of Holies of heaven by the blood Jesus would bring to the Jewish reader’s mind the picture of the high priest in Israel on the Day of Atonement entering the tabernacle for him. The believing Jew on the outside saw himself in the person of the high priest on the inside of the tabernacle standing in the presence of God. The high priest’s presence in the Holy of Holies was viewed as his presence standing there too. The believing Jew who trusted in Jehovah believed that Messiah would come someday and stand in the presence of God for him and his sin would be remitted forever.

Now Paul identifies a new and living road into the Holy of Holies, not based on the blood of animals, but based on the blood of Jehovah-Savior, Jesus. The Greek word for “way” is hodos, “a road.” The word “new” is prosphaton, made up of pros meaning “near to,” and phatos from pehamai the perfect of phenein “to kill.” The original meaning of the total word is “newly slain.” Kenneth Wuest wrote this in his commentary on Hebrews: “Here the contrast is between the “old-slain road” of the earthly tabernacle where the high priest would sprinkle the blood of the sacrificial animal seven times on the ground as he approached the mercy seat in the Holy of Holies (Lev. 16:14), and the freshly-slain road into the Holy of Holies of heaven, sprinkled with the blood of the Lamb of God.” Paul was saying to the Hebrews, the old road is dead, and there is not any life there anymore; come to a road, a freshly-slain one, a living one.

In order to enter into the Holy of Holies on the “freshly-slain” living road, a believer must step on the sprinkled blood of Jesus. Even as the old road was sprinkled seven times with the blood of an animal, the new road was sprinkled seven times by the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world.

“Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed” (Isaiah 53:4-5).

The Seven Wounds of Jesus Christ

1. The stripes on His back

“Then he released Barabbas for them; but after having Jesus scourged, he delivered Him to be crucified” (Matthew 27:26).

“By His strips we are healed,” wrote Matthew. Peter wrote it this way: “By His wounds you were healed” (1Pe. 2:24). Both quotes come from Isaiah 53.

We are healed (rapha) by his beating. First we are healed to God, and second we are healed in our physical body. He is Jehovah-rapha, “I AM your Healer!” It was the will of God that Jesus be beaten, therefore it is the will of God that you be healed.

Jesus, after descending from the mountain where he had explained the true principles of the law of God, He was approached by a desperate leper. In case the law of a leper has been forgotten, consider Leviticus 13:45, 46. He must tear his clothes, his head must be covered, he must cover his mustache and cry, “Unclean, unclean,” warning people to stay away, and he must live alone outside the camp. Leprosy was and is a slow, torturous death, a most dreaded disease.

This leprous man, having heard in the distance the voice of Jesus preaching on the mountain, hope was kindled in his heart as he listened intently to the gracious words of Jesus, in his desperation he ignored the “law of the leper” and worshipfully bowed down at the feet of Jesus. Before the crowd could demand his departure, he cried out, “Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean!” Jesus reacted strangely in the eyes of the throng, He, against the law concerning a leper, stretched out His hand and touched him. The compassion of God surged through Jesus, having been held back by the sin of Adam for four thousand years. God wanted to touch His people, but could not because of their disobedience. But now it was different. God was in Christ, a man made in His likeness, and now He could reach out in the hand of Jesus and touch the suffering, the hurting and the tormented. Jesus declared, “I am willing; be cleansed!”

It is God’s will for you to be healed!

After healing the leper, Jesus entered Capernaum and was met by a Centurion who begged him, “Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering great pain” (Mt. 8:6). Immediately Jesus offered, “I will come and heal him.” The Roman soldier told Jesus all He would need to do was to speak the words of authority. Jesus replied, “Go your way; let it be done to you as you have believed.” The paralyzed tormented servant boy was healed immediately. Here again the willingness to heal was demonstrated by Jesus.

When Jesus saw Peter’s mother-in-law sick with a fever, “He touched her hand, and the fever left her; and she arose, and waited on Him” (Mt. 8:15). Without being asked, Jesus volunteered to heal this dear woman.

Jesus had preached to the multitude on the mountain side somewhere near Capernaum, healed the leper, and after entering the town, healed the Centurion’s servant boy and Peter’s mother-in-law. It had been a long day of ministering to the people. The sun had set and evening had come. Obviously, the day’s tremendous miracles performed by Jesus had spread throughout the community. Even though it was late, the people began to bring many who were demon possessed and He cast out the evil spirits and healed all those who were ill. Then the writer, Matthew, quoted Isaiah the prophet, “He Himself took our infirmities, and carried away our diseases.”

It is not, “If it is God will to heal,” but, “Allow Me to heal!”

I am convinced that when Jesus climbed in a boat to go on the other side of the sea, it was because He in the Spirit had heard the pitiful cries of two demon possessed men. He left the city where hundreds had been healed in one day, crossed the sea during a violent storm, searched among the tombs until He found the two hopeless men. The “willingness of God” was so strong in Jesus that He endured unbelievable hardships to reach the hurting and desperate people of His day.

Consider Matthew chapter nine, a wonderful sequence that unfolded the heart of God to the people.

The paralytic who could not walk. (1-8)

The woman who could not live. (18-22)

The two blind men who could not see. (27-31)

The dumb man who could not speak. (32-34)

The harvest that cannot wait. (37-38)

As the chapter closes, a common history of the activities of Jesus is given: “And Jesus was going about all the cities and the villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness” (Mt. 9:35). The compassion of God flowed out like a mighty river through His Christ. Through the arms of Jesus, God brought the people near his breast and loved them greatly.

2. The Crown of Thorns on His head

“And after weaving a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand; and they

kneeled down before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" (Matthew 27:29).

As the sharp poisonous thorns were pressed on the forehead of Jesus, blood began to ooze down his face. Jesus shed His blood for the healing of the mind.

Having lived in an adult world for many years, it has become apparent that the greatest battle fought upon the earth takes place in the mind. The mind is situated between the outer world and the inner world. Satan has set up his base of operation in the soul of man, and through what is called logic and reason, he seeks to control the direction and purpose of people. By using the window of the eyes, the channel of the ears, the impure desires of the soul and the pride of life, Satan attempts to deceive, distort the truth, and turn people away from the grace of God. He can appear as an angel of light, gloss over his evil heart with seemingly goodness, but within he is a thief and a destroyer.

How can Satan's inward presence be overcome? Even though we were born into the world with a fallen and weak nature, given over to the crude passions of the world, when we believed in the message of Jesus Christ and confessed it as truth, God's Spirit joined our spirit (1 Cor. 6:17), and behold we became new creatures after the image and likeness of God (1 Cor. 5:17). From the inward advantage point of our spirits, God seeks to take charge over our mind, will and emotions.

Inside our natural body is a "Spirit-creation!" Even though we exist naturally, we do not war naturally. "The weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses" (2 Cor. 10:4). Paul declares, "We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor. 10:5). "Speculations" come from the mind. Over the years the devil has set up strongholds in the mind; such as the strongholds of immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing and other things like these. Gal. 5:19-21. How can these fortresses be destroyed?

The word picture is like this: the Spirit that has joined with our spirit becomes a battering ram (an ancient war strategy to break down the doors of fortified cities) and strikes out against these established areas of our mind. The truth of God batters against immorality, impurity, sensuality, etc., until it occupies that mental territory. As we walk in the Spirit, listen to the Spirit, obey the Spirit, one by one the fortresses fall and the Holy Spirit sets up holy bastions able to resist the powers of the devil.

Our defense against the onslaughts of the devil is the power of the cross. "For the word (logos) of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (1 Cor. 1:18). How can this be? Paul preached Christ crucified! Why is this message so important?

Paul taught the Roman church this way: How can one continue in sin if they have died to sin? This is an impossibility! A corpse cannot respond to anything. Then how does the crucifixion of Christ affect the believer? The following truths if followed and adhered to will bring about total victory in this life.

First the golden text of the Bible: "But by His (God's) doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption" (1 Cor. 1:30). One is placed in Christ based upon their proper confession (Ro. 10:9,10). Paul declared that when a person is placed in Christ that person is placed into the death of Christ (Ro. 6:3). Therefore, Paul declares, "We have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life" (Ro. 6:4). We were placed into the death of Christ by God, and by God we were raised up to live in a newness of behavior. Christ Jesus died for all, therefore writes Paul, "All have died" (2 Cor. 5:14). That means what it says, "All have died!" In Adam all died, however in Christ, not only have they died, but they have been raised into new life. Are you aware of your history of death in Christ? It is vital to your walk of victory in the here and now.

Knowing that our old man (nature) was forever crucified with Christ in order that our inclination to sin

might become inoperative, we should no longer be slaves to sin. Ro. 6:6. Jesus, through His blood, redeemed us out of the prison of sin. 1 Cor. 6:19. Remember, although we are still in the flesh, our natural bodies, and have the same mind, will and emotions, we do not have to follow the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. Whatever is born of God overcomes the world and its system. 1 Jn. 5:4.

Our crucifixion in Christ has liberated us from the evil taskmaster, the devil. You are free from his domain of darkness! The option is this: don't serve him any longer, but rather serve Jesus. "Therefore," writes Paul, "do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey its lusts" (Ro. 6:12). Our God given option is to present our members, body, mind, will and emotions, to God as those alive from the dead, and our members as weapons of righteousness. Ro. 6:13.

The summary passage of Romans six: "But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life" (Ro. 6:22). Death in Christ is the key to freedom from sin and becoming enslaved as a servant to God is a key to godly behavior.

A carnal Christian is one that has been "born again" (man's spirit joined to the Spirit of God), but still is choosing to behave like the world. Those who are walking like the world and not bringing their thoughts into the captivity of Christ, are doing so by choice. "For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit" (Ro. 8:5). "Set," is a deliberate choice being made. Even though our will is weak, if we choose God's will for our lives, His will links to our will and we will prevail. "For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace" (Ro. 8:6). A mind fixed on God will prevail and bring down ungodly strongholds.

A mind fixed on Christ will produce life and peace. "And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:7). Knowing that we have been justified, or freed from our sins, produces peace in our minds. This peace will form a garrison around our minds and protect it from the attacks of the devil. We must fix our minds on whatever is pure, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, or anything that is excellent and worthy of praise. Phil. 4:8. Allow you mind to feed upon those things and the peace of God will stand guard over you and keep you.

Blood flowed from Jesus' pierced hands!

In the beginning God created man in His image and likeness, and placed him in the Garden of full provision--Eden. He was without lack, and one who was destined to rule and dominate the earth in His righteousness. There was a full provision for man to do the will of God, but in time Adam and Eve choose to disobey God, consequently, they were judged and forced out of the Garden of Eden--their home of provision, promise and prosperity. Tragically, they slipped into a world of certain death, disease and sin.

However some four thousand years later, because of love for the world, God gave His only Son to redeem mankind from the judgment of eternal death and to reposition Him into his former full provision of eternal life and peace.)

For Jesus the road that led to "full provision" for mankind passed through death and entered into the heavenly Holy of Holies. Paul referred to it as a "freshly-slain" living road, sprinkled by the blood of Jesus instead of the blood of animals. Even as the old road was sprinkled seven times with the blood of an animal, the new road was sprinkled seven times by the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world.

Jesus was scourged on his back, had a crown of thorns severely pressed on His head, had nails driven through His hands and feet, and finally had His side split open by a cruel sword. The first two wounds were discussed in Part Two and now the following wounds will be considered.

Blood flowed from His pierced hands!

The blood of Jesus has provided new and better works for your hands. Righteous productivity is the issue. When we were in the world we walked according to the course of this world working the works of disobedience. Being self-related we served the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind and were certainly the products of wrath. We walked in the futility of our mind, having our understanding darkened by the deceitfulness of Satan, were blind, insensitive, and working all kinds of uncleanness. Our works did not represent God upon the earth nor reflect His heart. We all needed to be “born again” into God’s image and likeness. There are five major points in the following scripture:

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Ephes. 2:8-10).

1. We are saved by grace through faith.
2. We are God’s workmanship.
3. We are created in Christ Jesus.
4. We are created for good works.
5. The good works have been prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

There can be absolutely no work that can be done to qualify a person for salvation. In addition our works cannot keep our salvation. Flesh activity cannot boast itself before the throne of God. It is by His grace, and His grace only, that anyone can be saved.

The bible says, “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation” (2 Cor. 5:17), and that “The new man (is) created...in true righteousness and holiness” (Eph. 4:24), and we are “Complete in Him” (Col. 2:10). God has created and placed you in Christ Jesus! 1 Cor. 1:30.

You are the “workmanship” of God created in Christ Jesus. You are not a fluke, misfit, unworthy, imperfect, poor craftsmanship, but instead you are the handiwork of God, undoubtedly wonderfully made. David declared, “For I am fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psa. 139:14). A body, soul and spirit were skillfully woven into a physical human being out of a hodgepodge of materials. The glory of the physical body fades into nothingness alongside the glory of the spiritual body. The spiritual creation within you outshines the sun, supersedes time, and is declared by God to be the imprint of His nature. The outside of our lives does not fully testify to the glory of God’s work within. Appreciate God’s workmanship!

His blood has provided divine abilities!

Before you were created in Christ Jesus, your sphere of works was prepared by God. Works that you are able to do without sweat or worry. They have been especially designed for your life.

The scriptures read, “For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ” (1 Cor. 12:12). “Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually” (1 Cor. 12:27). The Spirit works the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, discerning of spirits, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, tongues and the interpretation of tongues. The function of the divine gift is operating through a member of the body. You are a member of the body of Christ, and your function is enabled by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit works the works of God, not the works of the flesh! The Holy Spirit will kill the deeds of the body as you yield to His supervision.

As you submit yourself to the Holy Spirit, the Spirit flows effortlessly to accomplish God’s will and purpose. Your hands are guided and strengthened for the needed tasks that will build the body of Christ and increase its harvest. Ministry unto others will take on a new meaning of success and wonderment. The Holy Spirit hears what the Father is saying and sees what the Father is doing.

The left and right hands were equally pierced.

What was awkward and uncoordinated now is divinely enabled. Left handed? Right handed? It makes little difference. The provision of the blood is the same for both hands. You might be of the tribe of Judah (right handed) or of the tribe of Benjamin (left handed), both were warriors.

There were two impressive bronze pillars holding up the Porch of Solomon's temple, the right one was called Jachin (He will establish) and the left was called Boaz (eager readiness, alacrity). The eager willingness of God to establish you in His temple is expressed by the two massive pillars.

Under the Mosaic Covenant the blood of the sacrificial ram (Jesus) was placed on Aaron's right ear, the thumb of his right hand and the big toe of his right foot. The right ear represents our hearing, the right hand represents our works and the right foot represents our vocation. His blood has covered the works of our hands, redeemed them, making a full provision for them.

The blood flowed from His pierced feet

There has been a full provision made for your walk, direction or purpose in life. When you stand before the judgment seat of God to give an account as to your life's work, there will not be opportunity to give excuses for the "why nots" or "what fors".

"who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity" (2 Tim. 1:9)

"also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will" (Ephes. 1:11).

"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).

"Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something on the wheel. But the vessel that he was making of clay was spoiled in the hand of the potter; so he remade it into another vessel, as it pleased the potter to make" (Jeremiah 18:3-4)

You have been saved, called, predestined according to God's purpose. The Potter (God) has the power over the clay to mold and shape it as He wills. You have purpose and it is determined by God. Members in the body of Christ did not choose their location, rather their position is the determination of God. All arguments of the individual members fade into silence under the auspices of the Head, Christ Jesus. The purpose of God flows through the head to each member, and as they submit to His will, the works of God are done perfectly.

First, the purpose of God in His Christ.

"The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8).

God was determined to loose us from the works of the devil. The god of this world, the devil, who is called the prince and power of the air, has been overpowered by God and will be "cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone" (Rev. 19:20). The world as we now know it will pass away and its enticing lusts, but he who does the will of God abides forever. Disease and death is cut free from the man who cries, "Save me Lord!" The works of the devil plunged mankind into pain, loss, despair, hopelessness, corruption of spirit, soul and body, spiritual blindness, and led man to the open pits of hell, but in the niche of time, God sent His Son on a mission to liberate everyone from the devil's stranglehold. God succeeded! Jesus arose with this declaration in His mouth, "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory" (1 Cor. 15:55)?

Second, the purpose of God in His saints.

Paul prayed that our eyes might be supernaturally touched to understand three major truths: a) The hope of His calling, b) The riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and c) The exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe. Eph. 1:18-19. "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people," writes Peter, "that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Pe. 2:9). God is to be gloried in His saints. 2 Thess. 1:10. God's purpose in His saints is to manifest His wisdom through them to the principalities and powers of the universe. The purpose of God in His saints is grand, awesome and wonderful.

There is an universal purpose of the church and there is an individual purpose of its members.

Even as Jesus understood His purpose upon the earth, so the believer must personally understand his purpose and walk in God.

Joseph, after suffering rejection and injustice for many years, came to know his personal purpose. Gen. 45:5. God had sent him ahead to preserve the lives of his family. He was to be the prime minister of Egypt. The understanding of purpose did not come immediately, but unfolding in God's timing.

Paul at his conversion was told by God his purpose to be a witness. Acts 26:16-18. He was to be the prime witness before Rome. He did not know everything that would happen to him between the calling on the road and the standing before the emperor of the world, but he allowed its unfolding in his life.

David served the purpose of God in his generation. Acts 13:36. He was to be king over Israel. With his head wet with the anointing oil of Samuel, David challenged the giant Goliath, not knowing what was ahead. Some 13 years later, standing in the ashes of Ziklag, he encouraged himself in the Lord. How do you think he did that with his men holding stones in their hands. Surely, he remembered the anointing oil running down his head and remembering Samuel's gracious words.

If your purpose in life has not been adequately defined, go to God for the answers, not someone else that you do not know. You can ask God, "Who am I?" Moses did. "What part of the family am I?" Otherwise, endeavor to discern your purpose.

After you discern your purpose, ask the question, "How can I do it?" God wants you to discover your message.

Then you can ask, "Why me Lord?" "Who am I, How can I do it, Why me Lord? Are reasonable questions to ask. God does not willfully take pleasure in withholding critical information from his people. You are people of destiny and the discovery of that destiny is vital to you. The blood from the feet of Jesus has paved the way for your exciting journey. The apostles establish, the prophets confirm, the evangelists exhort, the pastors shepherd, teachers strengthen, but God calls you directly and assigns you purpose.

What will you allow in your life to take away the purpose of God. King Saul allowed pressure to rob him of his rightful place in the kingdom of Israel. The great hero of Israel, Samson, allowed his weakness in the flesh to steal his glory and strength. Ananias and Sapphira allowed popularity and ambition to take away their opportunity to fulfill their purpose. Demas allowed the pleasures of this life to steal from him his purpose in God. Again, the blood of the feet of Jesus has made full provision for your journey in life!

Even though others question your purpose, don't stop following after Jesus. Religious people asked John, the Baptist, "Who are you?" But he kept on preaching and preparing the way for Jesus. They told Peter he was drunk. The Epicurean and Stoic philosophers of Athens encountered Paul and questioned, "What does this babbling want to say?" Festus cried out to Paul, "You are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!" The blood of Jesus was there for John, Peter and Paul, and it remains to this

day, giving you provision for the road ahead.

To walk out your purpose in God is not automatic. You must choose to pursue after God's purpose. The full provision is there and it will be appropriated at the right time. Press ahead, forgetting the past, and stretch out for the finish line.

7. Blood and water flowed from Jesus' side

The blood

"But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out" (Jn. 19:34).

Blood for covering and Water for cleansing.

Atonement comes from the Hebrew word, "Kaphar", or to cover over. From Genesis to Malachi there was required a constant flowing stream of animal's blood to cover over the sins of the people.

Blood atonement was to be made for the Tabernacle of Moses, with all of its utensils and furniture, for the people, the priests and their food. The applied blood made it possible for imperfect people to worship a perfect God, come into His presence and not be put to death by His holiness.

Blood atonement was made for the following:

A sin offering was made for the intentional and unintentional sins of the nation, its rulers and its people. It is described in Lev. 4.

A trespass (guilt) offering was made for those who were silent concerning hearing a oath, or those touching the dead, or touching uncleanness, or in ignorance swore. Lev. 5.

There was atonement made for mothers who had given birth to a child. Lev. 12.

Blood atonement was made for the leper and his house. Lev. 14.

Blood atonement was made for body discharge. Lev. 15.

On the tenth day of the seventh month, Israel kept the day of atonement. Only once during the religious calendar year, the High Priest entered into the Holy of Holies and sprinkled the blood of a goat seven times on the mercy seat. It covered the sins of a nation for one year, then it must be repeated again the following year. Truly Israel was in blood covenant with their God.

Interestingly, the first mention of "Kaphar" (atonement) was in connection with the building of the ark, Genesis 6:4. Noah was instructed to cover the ark, or apply pitch to the ark inside and outside. The pitch kept the waters of the wrath of God out of the ark, consequently, the people were saved.

The last mention of the word "Kaphar" is found in Daniel 9:24. This scripture is prophetic, speaking of the coming Messiah prince who would "finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation (kaphar) for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and anoint the Most Holy." Jesus did just that. Paul writes, "For such a High Priest (Jesus Christ) was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself" (Heb. 7:26,27). "But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God...for by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified" (Heb. 10:12,14). Jesus the mighty prince of God, shed his blood, died on the cross, was raised from the dead by the power of God, applied his blood in the heavenly tabernacle, sat down on the right hand of Almighty God to forever make intercession for the be-

liever.

Just before He went to the cross, Jesus said the following while holding up the cup, “For this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins” (Matthew 26:28). We have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins (Eph. 1:7), justification through His blood (Ro. 5:9), brought near to God by His blood (Eph. 2:13), and given peace (Col. 1:20).

The blood of Jesus has covered and is constantly cleansing us from sin. “But if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son (constantly) cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:7).

The Water

Besides the flow of the blood out of the side of Jesus, there came out water. The purpose of the water is for cleansing.

One of the pieces of furniture in the Tabernacle of Moses was the Laver, a container that was filled with water. The priest, as he went about offering the sacrifices and fulfilling his duties inside and outside of the Holy Place, was required to pass by the laver. Each time he would wash himself. In the course of each ministry day, he would wash himself many times.

In the world that we live and work in, the environment can be substantially filled with ungodly pollution. Many times, after working in the plywood mills of the Northwest, when I left the job for home, I felt dirty. My mind had been subjected to a stream of cursing and negative thoughts and I needed cleansing. How can this be done?

The cleansing method of God is revealed in Eph. 5:26. God cleanses His church “with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.” After a day in the grime and filth of the world, come under the faucet of His word, allow God words, God thoughts, God ideas to flow over your mind. There is not any stain of the world unintentionally gained that can remain on you under the force of God’s word.

David sang forth this request, “Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow...blot out all my iniquities, create in me a clean heart, renew a steadfast spirit within me, restore to me the joy of Your salvation, O God” (Psa. 51:7-12).

The feeling of “clean”, “being clean”, is so exhilarating. The flow from the side of Jesus will cover the past, cleanse the present, and present you holy in the sight of God. Hallelujah!

With boldness Paul encouraged the believers to approach the throne of God, not fearfully as was the history of the old testament priests. He wrote, “Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh” (Heb. 10:19,20). Paul exhorted us to enter, not by the old-slain road, that is by the sacrificial blood of animals, but by the newly-slain road, the blood of Jesus. Here the contrast is between the “old-slain road” of the earthly tabernacle where the high priest would sprinkle the blood of the sacrificial animal seven times on the ground as he approached the mercy seat in the Holy of Holies, and the “freshly-slain road” into the Holy of Holies of heaven, sprinkled seven times with the blood of the Lamb of God.

When you enter into the presence of God, you do so on the blood from the seven wounds of Jesus. Your first step is on the blood from His back, then you step on the blood from His brow, following with steps on the blood from His hands, His feet, and finally you step up in front of the throne, one foot on the blood from His side and one foot on the water. His trail of blood leads you from the world into His glorious presence!

Leon Willis