BASIC TRUTHS GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW

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Since the creation of man, each thinking person has asked the question that Pilate asked of Christ: "What is truth"? (John 18:38) The question is also asked: "Where is Truth"? Fortunately for us these questions are all answered by our Creator. To get us started in our quest for truth let us look at basic truths that God has spelled out in His Holy Scriptures, the Bible.

1. CHRIST IS THE WORD OF GOD

First and foremost it is necessary that we keep our minds focused on the Lord Jesus Christ. Without Him we are always headed in the wrong direction:

I John 5:10 - "He that believeth on the <u>Son of God</u> hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made Him a liar: because he believeth not the record that God gave of His Son"

John 1:1 - "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and $\underline{\text{the Word}}$ was $\underline{\text{God}}$ ".

John 1:14 - "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of Father, full of grace and truth".

Rev. 19:13 - "And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called The Word of God".

Any attack on the **Bible** is an attack on the **Lord Jesus Christ**.

2. CHRIST IS THE CREATOR OF ALL THINGS

We know from Gen. 1:26 "Let <u>Us</u> make man in <u>Our</u> image", that the Triune God was of one mind concerning creation. But the specific creator is pointed out to us in many Scriptures:

- John 1:3: Speaking of the <u>Word</u> who is Christ, says: "<u>All things were made by Him</u>, and without Him was not any thing made that was made".
- John 1:10: Speaking of the <u>True Light</u> which is Christ, says: "He was in the world and the world (kosmos) was made by Him and the world knew Him not".

Ephesians 3:9: "And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the Mystery which from the beginning of the world hath been his in God. Who created all things by Jesus Christ".

Colossians 1:16-17: "<u>For by Him were all things created</u> that are in heaven and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones or dominions or principalities or powers: <u>all things were created by Him</u> and for Him; And He is before all things and by Him all things consist". This passage is speaking of the dear Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ.

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 (eons).

Hebrews 1:10: "And Thou Lord in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the work of Thine hands".

It is clear that our creation was made by Christ and for His purposes.

3. THE BIBLE IS THE SOURCE OF TRUTH CONCERNING CHRIST

II Timothy 3:16-17: "<u>All Scripture is given by inspiration of God</u> and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works".

II Peter 1:19-21: "We have also a more sure word of prophecy, whereunto you do well that ye take heed as unto a light that shineth in a dark place until the day dawn and the <u>Daystar</u> arise in your hearts: knowing this first that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but <u>holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost</u>".

Galatians 1:8-9: "But, though we or an angel from heaven preach any <u>other Gospel</u> unto you than ye have received let him be <u>accursed</u>. As we said before so say I now again, if any man preach any other <u>Gospel</u> unto you than that ye have received let him be <u>accursed</u>".

Revelation 22:18-19: "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, <u>if any man shall add unto these things</u> God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in the book; And if <u>any man shall take away from the words of the book</u> of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book".

Colossians 1:25: "Whereof I am made a minister according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you to fulfill (complete) the Word of God".

The Holy Spirit not only says here that the Bible was written by God, but that it is complete (Col. 1:25) and nothing can be added or subtracted from it.

4. <u>CHRIST IN HIS WORD SHOWS THE SOURCE OF RELIGION AND MAN'S PHILOSOPHY</u>

Religion is man seeking God, but Christianity is a person, the Lord Jesus Christ who says in John 14:6: "I am the way, the truth and the life; no man comes to the Father but by me". How can we avoid the pitfalls of receiving false ideas? Christ tells us in:

John 8:44: where He says of Satan: "He was a murderer from the beginning and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own; for he is a liar and the father of it. The three times that Satan spoke to Eve provides us with the lies that we must guard against:

LIE #1

Genesis 3:1: "Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made, and he said unto the woman, 'yea hath God said ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden"?

Satan caused doubt to come into Eve's mind and he is still doing this today:

John 1:3 says that Christ created – Satan says that evolution caused creation.

John 14:6 says that Christ is the only way – Satan says that there are many ways.

2 Peter 1:16 says that the disciples did not follow cunningly devised fables – Satan says the Bible is full of fables.

Any religion or philosophy that goes against the clear instruction of the Word of God is part of the lie.

LIE #2

Genesis 3:4: "And the serpent said unto the woman 'ye shall not surely die".

This lie is commonly known as the "<u>immortality of the soul</u>" and is taught by both religion and philosophy. Satan has done a masterful job in spreading this lie through the philosopher Plato and religion picked it up from there. It is clear from 1 Timothy 6:16 that it is the Lord Jesus Christ "<u>who only hath immortality</u>". Humans do not have immortality because God's Word says in 1 Corinthians 15:53 that "<u>This mortal must put on immortality</u>". 2 Timothy 1:9-10 explains how this is accomplished: "Who has saved us and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works but according to His own purpose and grace which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, but is now made manifest by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ who has abolished death and has brought life and <u>immortality to light</u> through the gospel". We obtain immortality when we believe the gospel.

Here are 2 popular myths taught by religion:

- (1) That man <u>has</u> an immortal soul: But God's word says in Genesis 2:7 that man <u>is</u> a soul: "And The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man <u>became a living soul</u>". The word soul is the Hebrew word nephesh and is the same word translated creature in Genesis 1:24 of the animals.
- (2) That Adam was created with a spiritual nature and he lost it when he sinned. But scripture is contrary to this idea. 1 Corinthians 15:45-47: "And so it is written, the first man Adam was made a living soul, and the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual but that which is natural and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth earthy, the second man is the Lord from heaven". One can only become spiritual by being in Christ. Adam was created moral with the possibility of choice. Mans' religions are based on this lie, for example, spiritism, spiritualism, reincarnation and all the forms of "New Age" thinking. If Adam and Eve were created with immortality there would not have been a Tree of Life in the garden.

LIE #3

Genesis 3:5: "You shall be as gods".

This lie is at the basis of a major portion of philosophy and religion today that says that we are a part of the divine, or that we can reach the divine. Some examples are: Hinduism, Buddhism, Christian Science, Bahaism, New Age and all Eastern Mysticism.

If we insist on following Satans' lies then we must be prepared to suffer the same consequences as he is going to – total destruction. Ezekiel 28:18b-19: "I will bring forth a fire from the midst of you, it shall devour you and I will bring you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold you. All they that knew you among the people shall be astonished at you; you shall be a terror, and <u>never shall you be anymore</u>. Unless you still think that you have immortality apart from Christ think about these verses:

1 John 3:15: "Whosoever hates his brother is a murderer and you know that <u>no murderer has eternal life abiding in him</u>".

1 John 5:11-12: "And this is the record that God has given to us eternal life and this life <u>is in His Son.</u> He that has the <u>Son has life</u>, and he that has <u>not the Son of God has not life</u>".

Romans 6:23: "For the wages of sin is <u>death</u>; but the gift of God is <u>eternal life</u> through Jesus Christ our Lord".

5. CHRIST IS THE NEED OF ALL MANKIND

When Christ created mankind He could have made robots to do only His will, but instead He made persons who were <u>free moral agents</u>. He allowed Adam and Eve to disobey His word.

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 knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt 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".

Romans 5:12: "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world and <u>death</u> by sin; and so <u>death passed upon all men</u>, for that all have sinned.

God is always true to His Word, and all mankind has experienced death. This is why Christ is the most important need of mankind.

Romans 5:15: "But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ hath abounded unto many".

1 Corinthians 15:21-22: "For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive".

1 John 5:9-12: "If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater, for this is the witness of God which He hath testified of His Son. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made Him a liar because he believeth not the record that God gave of His Son. And this is the record that God hath given to us eternal life and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life, and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life".

John 5:24: "Verily, verily I say unto you. He that heareth my word and believeth on Him that sent me <u>hath everlasting life</u> and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life".

Ephesians 2:8-9: "For by grace are ye saved through faith and that not of yourselves it is the gift of God: not of works lest any man should boast".

Without Christ there is no hope for mankind to have everlasting life!

6. <u>JESUS CHRIST HAS GIVEN TO US ETERNAL SECURITY</u>

Ephesians 1:12-14: "That we should be to the praise of His glory who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted after that ye heard the Word of Truth, the gospel of your salvation: In Whom also after that ye believed ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession unto the praise of His glory".

Ephesians 4:30: "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God whereby <u>ye are sealed unto</u> the day of redemption".

Romans 8:35,38 & 39: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or distress or persecution or nakedness or peril or sword? For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord".

Colossians 2:9-10: "For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And <u>ye are complete in Him</u> which is the head of all principality and power".

Ephesians 1:4: "According as <u>He hath chosen us in Him</u> before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love".

To deny eternal security is to deny the work of the Lord Jesus Christ at the cross and deny the power of the Holy Spirit.

7. THE LORD GAVE UP ON ALL MANKIND AFTER THE TOWER OF BABEL

Romans 1:18-25: "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who hold the truth in unrighteousness; because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed 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;

Because that when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie (the lie) and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, Who is blessed forever. Amen".

Romans 1:28: "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind to do those things which are not convenient".

8. THE LORD'S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM

After the Lord gave up on mankind, He chose Abram.

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 show 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".

Genesis 17:7-8: "And I will establish My covenant between Me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee and to thy seed after thee. And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God".

A. The Lord promised Abraham a Land

Genesis 15:18: "In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram saying: 'Unto thy seed have I given the land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river Euphrates".

B. The Lord promised Abraham a City

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. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise as in a strange country dwelling in tabernacles (tents) with Isaac and Jacob the heirs with him of the <u>promise</u>: for <u>he looked for a city</u> which hath foundations whose builder and maker is God".

9. THE LAW (OLD COVENANT) WAS ADDED TO THE PROMISE

Galatians 3:16-19: "Now to "Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, 'and to seeds' as of many, but as of one, 'and to thy seed' which is Christ. And this I say, that the covenant that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. For if the inheritance be of the law it is no more of promise, but God gave it to Abraham by promise. Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions til the seed should come to whom the promise was made, and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator".

The hope under the Old Covenant is the land of Canaan.

Exodus 33:1: "And the Lord said unto Moses, 'Depart and go up hence thou and the people which thou hast brought up out of the land of Egypt, unto the land which I sware unto Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob saying unto thy seed will I give it".

10. CHRIST'S FIRST COMING BRINGS THE NEW COVENANT

Luke 16:16: "<u>The Law and the Prophets were until John</u>: since that time the Kingdom of God is preached and every man presseth into it".

Romans 10:4: "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth".

Hebrews 8:7-13: "For if that first covenant had been faultless then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them He saith, 'Behold the days come saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, because they continued not in my covenant and I regarded them not saith the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days saith the Lord. I will put my laws into their mind and write them in their hearts, and I will be to them a God and they shall be to me a people. And they shall not teach every man his neighbor and every man his brother saying: know the Lord; for all shall know me from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more'. In that day he saith, 'a new covenant'. He hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away".

This passage is a quote from Jeremiah 31:31-34 and Paul is saying to the Hebrews that it is here now. Christ instituted it at the Last Supper. The whole nation did not receive it as it will take a great Tribulation to get the nation in line. But Christ's work on the cross has opened up the way.

Luke 22:20: "Likewise also the cup after supper saying, 'This cup is the new testament (covenant) in my blood which is shed for you'".

The hope of the New Covenant believers is the New Jerusalem.

Galatians 4:26: "But Jerusalem which is above is free. Which is the mother of us all".

Hebrews 11:16: "But now they desire a better country, that is an heavenly; wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God for He hath prepared for them a city".

Hebrews 12:22: "But ye are come unto Mount Sion and unto the city of the living God. The heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels".

11. SCRIPTURE SHOWING THAT THE NEW COVENANT CAME WITH CHRIST

A. Water and Spirit

The prophecy concerning the New Covenant in Ezekiel 36:25-26 says this: "Then will I sprinkle <u>clean water</u> upon you and ye shall be clean from all your filthiness and from your idols will I cleanse you. A new heart will I give you and <u>a new spirit will I put within you</u> and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh and I will give you a heart of flesh".

Christ tells Nicodemus in John 3:5: "Verily, verily I say unto thee, except a man be born of <u>water</u> and of the <u>Spirit</u> he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God".

Peter speaking in Acts 2:38: "Repent and be <u>baptized</u> every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the <u>Holy Ghost</u>".

The Apostle Paul's conversion was according to the New Covenant.

Acts 9:17-18: "And Ananias went his way and entered into the house, and putting his hands on him said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, That appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest hath sent me that thou mightest receive thy sight and be filled with the Holy Ghost'. And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales and he received sight forthwith and arose and was baptized". In Paul's early ministry he says in 2 Corinthians 3:5b-6a: "but our sufficiency is of God; who hath made us able ministers of the New Testament (Covenant)".

B. Christ became a priest after the order of Melchisedec

With the Law being ended in Christ, the Aaronic Priesthood is done and Christ becomes the Priest. It was fortunate for Israel that Christ came because the Lord was no longer meeting the High Priest once a year to take away Israel's sin.

Hebrews 7:11-17: "If therefore, perfection were by the Levitical Priesthood (for under it the people received the Law) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec and not be called after the order of Aaron? For the priesthood being changed there is made of necessity a change also of the law. For He of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe of which no man gave attendance at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood. And it is yet far more evident for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest, who is made not after the law of a carnal commandment but after the power of an endless life. For He testifieth, 'Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchisedec'".

Hebrews 9:11-15: "But Christ being come an High Priest of good things to come by a greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is to say not of this building. Neither by the blood of goats and calves but by His own blood. He entered in once into the holy place having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the Eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this cause He is the mediator of the New Testament (Covenant) that by means of death for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first Testament (Covenant) that they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance".

12. WHY THE NEW COVENANT WAS SET ASIDE (FOR A TIME) AT ACTS 28:28.

In the parable of the fig tree in Luke 13:7-9 our Lord says: "Behold these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none: Cut it down. Why cumbereth it the ground? And he answering said unto him, 'Lord let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it and dung it, and if it bear fruit well, and if not then after that thou shalt cut it down'".

A. Israel refused to live by the Old Covenant and the Shekinah Glory left.

Ezekiel 10:4: "Then the glory of the Lord went up from the cherub and stood over the threshold of the house, and the house was filled with the cloud and the court was full of the brightness of the Lord's glory".

Ezekiel 10:18-19: "Then the Glory of the Lord departed from off the threshold of the house and stood over the cherubims. And the cherubims lifted up their wings and mounted up from the earth in my sight: when they went out the wheels also were beside them and every one stood at the door of the east gate of the Lord's house and the glory of the God of Israel was over them above".

Ezekiel 11:22-23: "Then did the cherubims lift up their wings and the wheels beside them, and the glory of the God of Israel was over them above. And the glory of the Lord went up from the midst of the city and stood upon the mountain which is on the east side of the city".

There is no record that the glory of the Lord returned to Israel during the remainder of the Old Covenant and will not return until the Millenial Kingdom comes and a new temple is built.

Ezekiel 43:4-5: "And the <u>glory of the Lord</u> came into the house by the way of the gate whose prospect is toward the east. So the spirit took me up, and brought me into the inner court; and, behold the glory of the Lord filled the house". This is a prophecy of the future temple to be built before the Day of the Lord.

In Isaiah 6:9-10 we have the first pronouncement of judgment against Israel: "And He said, 'Go and tell this people, hear ye indeed but understand not, and see ye indeed but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat and make their ears heavy and shut their eyes lest they see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and convert and be healed". The Lord has said in Jeremiah 31:9: "For I am a Father to Israel" so in effect Israel rejected God the Father.

B. God allowed Israel to reject His Son.

John 1:11: "He came unto His own and His own received Him not".

Matthew 13:14-15: "And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias which saith, 'By hearing ye shall hear and shall not understand and seeing ye shall see and shall not perceive. For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing and their eyes have they closed lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and should understand with their heart and should be converted and I should heal them".

C. God allowed Israel to reject His Holy Spirit.

Christ said in Matthew 12:31-32: "Wherefore I say into you, all manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men but the blasphemy against the <u>Holy Ghost</u> shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of Man it shall be forgiven him, but whosoever speaketh against the <u>Holy Ghost</u> it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world (age, aion) neither in the world (age, aion) to come". The Holy Spirit came in Acts Chapter two but the nation did not accept and Paul had to pronounce judgment for the third time on them. Acts 28:25-27: "And when they agreed not among themselves they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, 'well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers saying, Go unto this people and say, hearing ye shall hear and not understand and seeing ye shall see and not perceive, for the heart of this people is waxed gross and their ears are dull of hearing and their eyes have they closed lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and should be converted and I should heal them".

In effect God allowed Israel to reject the triune God!

13. THE DISPENSATION OF THE MYSTERY

The hope of the mystery calling is not the earth or the New Jerusalem, it is:

Ephesians 1:21-23; 2:6: "<u>Far above all</u> principality and power and might and dominion and every name that is named not only in this world (age, aion) but also in that which is to come and hath put all things under his feet and gave Him to be the Head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all. <u>And hath raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus</u>".

If God had not revealed another plan after Acts 28:28, both Jew and Gentile would have been without a Calling and a future Hope. But God inserts a parenthesis in his promise to Abraham that provides mankind with a Hope today that could never have been considered.

Ephesians 3:8-9: "Unto me who am less than the least of all saints is this grace given that I should preach among the Gentiles the Unsearchable (untraceable) riches of Christ; and to make (enlighten) all men see what is the fellowship of the Mystery which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God who created all things by Jesus Christ".

The purpose of the new revelation is:

Ephesians 3:10: "To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God".

It was revealed through the Apostle Paul:

Ephesians 1:3-7: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who hath blessed us with all (every) spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love; having predestinated us unto the adoption of children (sons) by Jesus Christ to himself according to the good pleasure of His will to the praise of the glory of His grace wherein He hath made us accepted in the Beloved. In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of His grace".

Paul explains it further in:

Ephesians 2:11-15: "Wherefore remember that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the circumcision in the flesh made by hands. That at that time ye were without Christ being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For He is our peace who hath made both one and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; having abolished in His flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances, for to make in Himself of twain one new man so making peace".

Our hope is:

Ephesians 2:4-7: "But God, who is rich in mercy for His great love wherewith He loved us even when we were dead in sins hath quickened (made alive) us together with Christ, by grace ye are saved, and hath raised us up together and made us sit together <u>in heavenly places</u> in Christ Jesus. That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus".

Come and enter this hope by believing what Christ has said in His Word! A study of the Greek words hades, gehenna and aeon are very helpful in understanding God's plan for the ages.

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