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God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

John 5.

(2013)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

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John 5.

Topics.

- Jesus heals a man who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.
- Sin no-more so that nothing worse may happen.
- Equal with God and in the form of God.
- All who are in tombs will hear his voice and come out.
- Jesus Christ is eternal life and not the Scriptures.

The Previous Chapter: in the previous chapter Jesus leaves Judea and goes to Galilee, Samaria and Sychar after talking to a Samaritan woman and the people of Samaria at Jacob's well he went to Galilee and performs a second miracle by healing a man's dying son in Capernaum (Jesus first miracle was turning water to wine).

NOTE: for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

Jesus heals a man who had been an invalid for thirty-eight Years.

John 5:1-13 ----- ¹After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ²Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. ³In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. ⁴For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. ⁵One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. ⁶When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" ⁷The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me." ⁸Jesus said to him, "Get up, take up your bed, and walk." ⁹And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath. ¹⁰So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed." ¹¹But he answered them "The man who healed me, that man said to me, 'Take up your bed, and walk.'" ¹²They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk?'" ¹³Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place.

Bethesda: means house of kindness and was a pool in Jerusalem.

NOTICE: the paralysed man did not realise that Jesus was going to heal him he didn't even ask Jesus to heal him and even when Jesus said, "Do you want to be healed?" the man didn't say "Yes" but tells Jesus he has no-one to put him in the pool, this man had no-idea Jesus was able to heal him so there was no faith involved on the man's part.

This healing was an act of compassion and an enormous sign that God's power was flowing through Jesus who simply told the man who had not walked for thirty-eight years to pick up his bed and walk and he did. Because it is a Sabbath Day the self-righteous prideful and hypocritical religious leaders rebuke the man for carry his bed and wanted to find Jesus and rebuke him for telling the healed man to carry his bed. This clearly shows how legalistic the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes had become, they considered carrying a bed work and therefore unlawful on a Sabbath Day. Though these religious rulers had enormous knowledge of the Old Testament Scriptures they had absolutely no idea as to what is important to the heart of God.

Sin no-more so that Nothing Worse may Happen.

John 5:14-15 ----- ¹⁴Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you." ¹⁵The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him.

This man had been paralysed for thirty-eight years and Jesus tells him not to sin any more or something worse might happen, which raises two questions, "What would be worse than being an invalid?" And, "What sin would an invalid man have been doing?"

The following are some possible answers to these two questions, maybe the man's inability to walk was a result of some kind of foolish and dangerous action that crippled him, but it is more likely Jesus was warning him not to do any unlawful things in the temple on the Sabbath Day or the legalistic religious authorities may do something worse to him (i.e. put him in prison or stone him) after all they had the Romans kill Jesus and he only did good. These legalistic Jews are angry because a man was fantastically healed on the Sabbath Day, how blind are they to what is really important to God?

The Jews seek to Persecute and Kill Jesus.

John 5:16-23 ----- ¹⁶And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. ¹⁷But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working." ¹⁸This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. ¹⁹So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. ²⁰For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. ²¹For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. ²²The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, ²³that all may honour the Son, just as they honour the Father. Whoever does not honour the Son does not honour the Father who sent him.

The Jews were persecuting and seeking to kill Jesus, because they considered he was making himself equal to God by calling God his own Father and because they believed he was breaking laws on the Sabbath Day, but the Jews were wrong on both accounts since it has always been lawful to do-good on a Sabbath Day and Jesus himself by saying he was God's Son was certainly not making himself equal to God.

The following is a good principal for all fathers: Jesus says a son who loves his father will do what he sees his Father doing and a Father who loves his son will show him all that he himself is doing, the practical application of this of course is for human fathers is to teach their sons all that they have learned through their experiences of life to help their sons succeed or to protect them from making similar mistakes (the same principal applies for daughters).

Greater works than these will the Father show the Son.

Jesus words, "Greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel," clearly show that it is God's power flowing through Christ that enables Jesus to perform such incredible and majestic miracles.

NOTICE: God has given all judgment to Christ and given him the power to grant eternal life to whoever he will.

Equal with God.

Philip says: -

- Though Jesus was in the form of God, he did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped (Philip 2:6).

God at Jesus water Baptism poured out His Spirit on Christ and gave him all judgment and power to grant eternal life to whom he will added to this God has given Jesus a name above all names, resurrected him to his right-hand side in glory and exalted him above every authority, principality and power even with all this glory and power Jesus remained a humble, faithful and obedient Son before his Father he did not count equality with God a thing to be understood or comprehended.

The following is a simple explanation that helps explain the concept of being equal with God. When a son reaches an age and proves to his father that he has all the abilities and skill to take control of his father's business the father then give to his son the authority and power to take control of the fathers company. The son now has total authority over his father's business in this sense the son has been made equal with the father, but that does not mean the son has become the father but that he has all the authority and power of his father.

Given all the Fathers authority and power the son could easily become puffed up in pride because he has been made equal to his father in status but Jesus did not allow the ugly head of pride to puff itself up but remained a humble servant to those he came to save even though he had been given all the authority and power of his Father.

In the Form of God.

Jesus was in the form of God, means, he was the express image of the spirit character and nature of God the Father, he manifested God's love, grace, mercy and power and the plans, promises and purpose of God on earth. The character of Jesus on earth is an exact copy, image or form of the character of God the Father in heaven it is in this sense that Jesus Christ was in the form of God.

It should be noted that being in the form of something does not make the form of the object the object itself it is a copy or image of the object meaning Jesus though he is a perfect image of God is not God Himself.

Philip says: -

- Jesus being born in the likeness of men and in in human form made himself a servant (Philip. 2:7).

Jesus was born of a woman, had the same body as all humans and was tempted as all humans are but without sin (God Himself cannot be tempted) and even though he had all of God's power available to him rather than exalt himself, he humbly made himself a servant of others setting the example for all those who belong to him.

The Dead will Hear the Voice of the Son of God and Live.

John 5:24-30 ----- ²⁴Truly, truly, I say to you whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. ²⁵"Truly, truly, I say to you an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. ²⁶For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. ²⁷ And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. ²⁸Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice ²⁹and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment. ³⁰"I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.

It is interesting to notice the words, "Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life." Jesus does not say whoever understands the Bible from Genesis to Revelation has eternal life, but whoever believes in God and the words Jesus has spoken therefore a person reading the Bible can be saved by simply reading the red print in the New Testament (i.e., Jesus words), applying them to their life and believing in God who sent him added to this they will not even be judged (no-one has to be a walking Bible encyclopaedia to be saved to eternal life).

All who are in Tombs will hear his Voice and Come Out.

Jesus words, "An hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live" (v25) can be applied to that moment when Jesus on the cross cried out with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit and many tombs were opened and the bodies of the faithful who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after the Lord's resurrection they went into the holy city Jerusalem and appeared to many (Matt. 27:50-53).

But the ultimate application of Jesus words, "An hour is coming when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live and all who are in tombs will hear his voice and come out. Refers to Christs return as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth.

The words, "Those who have done good will rise to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment" can be understood in the following two ways: -

1. In the one resurrection there will be two groups that are raised to stand before the Lord, those who have done-good and those who have done evil. The group that has done-good will be immediately welcomed into the eternal Kingdom of Christ without any judgment while those classed as evil will be raised to judgment. Those who rise to the resurrection of Judgement no-doubt refer to the false prophets, and leaders, who come in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves that use their privileged position for their own selfish gain and ambition. Jesus, with these prideful, hypocritical teachers in mind said: -

- Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness' (Matt 7:15-23).

Doing the words of Christ is summed up in the following: -

There are only two Commandments, God and Christ gave: -

1. Love God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind.
2. Love your Neighbour as Yourself (Matt. 22:37-39).

Love your neighbour as yourself means do not deliberately do harm to other humans. No sane person deliberately does things to inflict pain on themselves, loving others as you love yourself is not about feeling some warm and fuzzy emotion towards others, it is about not hurting others as you would not hurt yourself. The thing God hates the most is when we do harm to another person, physically, financially, sexually, verbally, emotionally or spiritually and the thing God loves the most is when we do-good to others. It is interesting to notice that the major crime that God points out in Noah's time and one of the main reasons for the flood was because of all the violence in the land.

Micah says: -

- What the LORD requires of mankind is to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with their God (Micah 6:5-10).

Isaiah tells us: -

- The LORD loves justice and hates robbery and wrong doing (Isaiah 61:8).

Jeremiah says: -

- Those who know God practise steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth, because it is in these things that God delights (Jer. 9:24).

The great prophets Micah, Isaiah and Jeremiah clearly show us that the people the LORD loves are not only those who acknowledge God, but who also uphold justice, do not lie, deceive or make promises they do not intend to keep, but speak the truth, do what is right, show respect and give help to others when able and make choices that lead to peace. These are the things the LORD delights in and that bring His favour.

Jesus Sermon on the Mount: the constant theme throughout Jesus famous Sermon on the Mount is doing what is right before God by seeking the way of peace in all situations. Jesus calls Christians to treat people fairly and with respect, dignity, decency grace compassion, kindness, mercy and to be quick to forgive. Thus Christ-likeness is about doing all we can do to protect people from harm and being dominated by the thought, "What action can I take or do that will help and encourage this person." It is all about doing right to others, thus the reason the message he spoke on the mountain is referred to as, the Famous Sermon because the principals if followed not only by Christians but all humanity are the only way to peace (Matt 5).

For further information on Jesus Famous Sermon see: -

- Matthew 5 in Commentary New Testament (ON WEBSITE MENU).

2 The words: -

- All who are in the graves will hear his voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the *resurrection of life* and those who have done evil, to the *resurrection of condemnation* (John 5:28-29)

Could refer to the first resurrection and the second death since it could be reasoned that only the faithful who have endured in their faith and are sleeping in Christ will hear the voice of the Lord and therefore only those who belong to Christ would be resurrected in the first resurrection to eternal life.

The book of Revelations says: -

- The faithful who have died in Christ come to life and reign with the Lord for a thousand years. *The rest of the dead do not come to life until the thousand years are ended.* This is the *first resurrection*. Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the *first resurrection!* Over such the *second death* has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and will reign with him for a thousand years (Rev 20:5-6).

The resurrection to *life eternal* refers to the *first resurrection*, only those who belong to Jesus and hear his voice will be resurrected to eternal life, while those who do not hear the voice of Christ do not come to life until Jesus reign on earth as King of kings and Lord of lords has ended.

At the end of Christ's reign the book of Revelations says: -

- God descends on a *great white throne* and the *sea, death* and *hades* (the Grave) give up the dead and the great and small, stand before the throne of God. Then the *book of life* is opened and some others books. Whoever name is not found in the *book of life* is cast into the *lake of fire* a symbol of eternal death (i.e., total extinction). If a person's name is found in the *book of life* then the other books are opened and the dead who remain standing before the throne of God are judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done (Revelation 20:11-15).

Whoever attains to the first resurrection the second death will have no power over. The second death is also called the lake of fire which means that the resurrection of condemnation refers to the lake of fire a symbol of eternal death (i.e., total extinction) (Rev. 20:4-6) (Rev. 20:11-15).

The first resurrection, takes place when the Lord Jesus Christ returns and the second resurrection takes place at the end of Jesus millennial reign on earth which means there is at least a thousand year gap between the resurrection to life and the resurrection to condemnation.

NOTE: though it may be exciting and spiritually rewarding for some to reason together in a spirit of peace concerning which of these two scenarios might be the one to apply it should always be kept in mind that it is not important to our salvation to have an exact understanding. Since both these scenarios clearly show that the faithful will be welcomed into God's eternal glory while the prideful and hypocritical who have used the gospel for their own selfish gain will be judged to condemnation. Therefore to argue or even worse to divide over which of the two scenarios is correct could only be judged as an exercise of vanity and pride.

The Father who sent me has Himself Borne Witness about Me.

John 5:31-38 ----- ³¹If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not deemed true. ³²There is another who bears witness about me, and I know that the testimony that he bears about me is true. ³³You sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. ³⁴Not that the testimony that I receive is from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved. ³⁵He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. ³⁶But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me. ³⁷And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, ³⁸and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent.

NOTICE: the entire reason Jesus is saying all of this is not to exalt himself but in the hope of saving the Jews he is talking to. He knows it is not right for a person to testify of themselves so he reminds the Jews that John the Baptist who they were willing to listen to testified of him. Then Jesus points out that he does not need any human man to testify of who he is because the very works, miracles and wonders that he is doing bear witness about him far more than any man's testimony ever could and the majestic voice of God has twice borne witness of him firstly at his water baptism and secondly at the Mount of Transfiguration saying; -

- This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased (Matt. 3:17) (Matt. 17:5) (2 Peter 1:17).

Added to all these Jesus does not need any scrolls since the word of God abides in him.

Jesus Miracles Authenticated he was sent by God.

The miracles Jesus did authenticated that he was sent by God the Father we know this because when John the Baptist sent his disciples to ask Jesus if he was the one who is to come Jesus answered them: -

- Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me" (Matthew 11:2-6) (Luke 7:1-50).

JESUS CHRIST IS ETERNAL LIFE AND NOT THE SCRIPTURES.

John 5:39-46 ----- ³⁹You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, ⁴⁰yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. ⁴¹I do not receive glory from people. ⁴²But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. ⁴³I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. ⁴⁴How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? ⁴⁵Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you. Moses, on whom you have set your hope. ⁴⁶If you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me.

The Jews are searching the Scriptures thinking that in them they will have eternal life but the entire purpose of the Scriptures is to lead people to Christ because it is in him that eternal life is found. In Christ is forgiveness of sin, the promises of God and eternal life.

David when echoing Christ wrote: -

- Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me (Psalm 40:7).

The author of Hebrews says of Christ: -

- Behold, he came to do your will, O God, as it is written of him in the scroll of the book (Heb. 10:7).

Though the Scriptures reveal God's eternal plans, promise and purposes, salvation and eternal life is in the Lamb of God Israel's Messiah the Christ and saviour of the world, the unique King and Son of God that the Scriptures speak of.

Moses wrote of Jesus.

Because the Jews held Moses in high esteem they should have recognised Christ when he came, especially since he wrote the following amazing verse that states: -

- God would put enmity between the serpent and the woman, and between the serpent's seed and the woman's seed and that the seed of the serpent would bruise the heel of the woman's seed, but the seed of the woman would bruise the head of the serpent's seed (Gen 3:15) (the woman's Seed in this verse refers to Christ).

For greater detail of this fantastic and prophetic verse see: -

- Genesis 3:15 in, Commentary Old Testament (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Moses also wrote: -

- The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—And I the LORD will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak all that I command him, it is to him you shall listen (Deut. 18:15-19) (the prophet like Moses is Christ).

In the New Testament Philip said to Nathanael: -

- We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph" (John 1:45).

And Paul said: -

- He testifies both to the small and the great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass (Acts 26:22).

The following is also a few verses showing the prophets wrote of Jesus: -

Isaiah prophesied, saying: -

- There will come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge with equity for the meek of the earth (Isaiah 11:1-4). (The shoot that came forth from Jesse refers to Christ).

Isaiah prophesied that: -

- A virgin will conceive and bear a son, and call his name Immanuel, (Isaiah 7:14) he will grow up before God like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground and have no form or majesty that we should look at him or beauty that we should desire him. (Isaiah 53:2) but the Spirit of the LORD God will be upon him because the LORD will anoint him to bring Good News to the poor; and to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;(Isaiah 61:1).

At the end of his ministry he will give his back to those who strike, and his cheeks to those who pull out the beard; he will not hide his face from disgrace and spitting (Isaiah 50:6). (Isaiah is of course speaking of Christ).

Jeremiah said: -

- The days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness (Jer. 23:5-6). (The righteous Branch is Christ).

Daniel wrote: -

- I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. To him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed" (Dan 7:13-14). (The came one like a Son of Man refers to Christ).

Hosea prophesied of Christ calling Israel to return to the LORD their God that He may heal them; Hosea proclaims in his prophetic message: -

- After two days the LORD will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. Let us press on to know the LORD; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth. (Hosea 6:1-3). His going out is echoing Christ's death and as the dawn he will come is echoing his return.

Micah prophesied: -

- Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days" (Micah 5:2). (The one to come forth is Christ).

Zechariah writes: -

- If one asks him, "What are these wounds on your back?" He will say, "The wounds I received in the house of my friends" (Zechariah 13:6) and writes that a man whose name is the Branch will extend out from his place, and build the temple of the LORD (Zechariah 6:12).

Zechariah also tells Jerusalem to: -

- Rejoice greatly because their King is coming to them; righteous and having salvation, he is humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey (Zech. 9:9).

Latter in his letter he pens the beautiful words: -

- The LORD will pour out on Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. (Zech. 12:9-10). (Zechariah clearly writes of Christ).

Malachi prophesied: -

- The Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts, but who can endure the day of his coming, he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and refine the sons of Levi like gold (Malachi 3:1-3). (It is Christ who will suddenly come to his temple).

Paul when speaking of Jesus says: -

- The religious rulers of Israel did not recognize him (Christ) nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him (Acts 13:27). (See also Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53).

Naturally there are, many more Jesus himself said: -

- I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book (Hebrews 10:7). (The scroll of the book refers to the Old Testament writings).

And to the Jews he said: -

- They search the Scriptures (Old Testament) because they think that in them they have eternal life; but it is they that bear witness about him (John 5:39).

It is very clear that the religious rulers of Israel should have recognised their Messiah when he came especially since he was performing supernatural miracles that could only be done by a man who God's power was flowing through in such a majestic and awesome manner.

End