

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!" (Romans 11:33)

The Magnitude of Redemption

by Ray Prinzing

1 John 2:2 "And He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of THE WHOLE WORLD."

1 John 4:14 "And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be THE SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD."

Before we get into the heart of this message we would like to give a few scriptures that will help serve as a setting, placing this line of thought in as clear a channel as possible. We are including in the following next few verses the fuller Greek meaning of words to help give a clearer picture of their meanings, all such being in parentheses.

Romans 11:36, "For of (out of) Him, and through (by the means of) Him, and to (into) Him, are ALL THINGS: to Whom be glory for ever (for the ages), amen."

1 Corinthians 8:6,7a "But to us there is but one God, the Father, of (out of) whom are ALL THINGS, and we in Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by Whom are all things, and we by Him. Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge..."

2 Corinthians 5:18, "And ALL THINGS are of (out of) God."

No doubt all the universe was created out of the very glory that streamed out of Himself. And therefore it must have been spiritual in nature in its beginning - for God is Spirit. everything that comes from the hand of God is pure and spiritual in nature. But sin and self-hood have caused it to be degenerated into a gross materialism. Yet originally all things came out of God; they are now going through Christ, Who is our Redeemer, for "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them." (2 Corinthians 5:19); and eventually all will be brought back into God again, that the Godhead might be all in all. It is through Christ that the whole creation will be lifted up again into the highest favor with God where all shall be restored to its spiritual state.

Sin and self-hood have caused an estrangement, and an alienation from God, and, "ALL we like sheep have gone astray: we have turned EVERY ONE to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of US ALL." so reads, Isaiah 53:6.

But, you might say, that refers to Israel, for it was to them that Isaiah was speaking. That's true. But, Paul also speaks concerning this matter: Romans 11:32 "For God hath concluded them all (that is, all Israel) in unbelief, that He might have mercy upon all. (that is, both Israel and non-Israel)." And though God has purposed that "All Israel shall be saved" (Romans 11:26) yet for the time being, God has concluded all Israel in unbelief, in the same category with all the heathen nations on the outside. Why? So that according to His plan He might have mercy on the whole creation, a purpose which is beyond the comprehension of so many. And yet we read it plainly, "Christ is the propitiation for our sin, and not for ours only, but also for the sin of THE WHOLE WORLD."

Non-Israel, we know, have their "understanding darkened, being alienated for the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart." (Ephesians 4:18). And then we read that "Blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles (nations) be come in." So the veil is upon their eyes, which veil will be removed by the ministration of the Spirit through the remnant of Israel who are not blinded.

God has not blinded all of the, it states "in part," for God has ordained that a REMNANT shall come forth to be used to reconcile the world to Himself. Therefore there are a few "Israelites" who are not blinded but they are pressing on into the fulness of God, to become the horn of salvation being raised up in the house of David (see, Luke 1:68,69). And the Spirit's ministration will flow through them to restore all of Israel and all of creation back to the Godhead again. A restoration that is overwhelming in its scope, its power, and its glory. "How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out." (Romans 11:33).

God Provides Himself to Stand in the Gap

In turning to Ezekiel 22:30 we read, "And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none". And then connect a verse in Isaiah 59:16 "And He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore HIS arm brought salvation unto him; and His righteousness, it sustained Him." In this scripture is the precious truth hidden on the ARM OF THE LORD as it also applies to God's chosen vessels for that purpose, but right now we'll limit our thought to the Lord our Redeemer - when God could not find a man that could yet bring salvation, HE MANIFESTED HIMSELF in a body as a man to accomplish what no other man could do. HIS OWN ARM brought salvation, and His own righteousness sustained Him.

It was while meditating on this that the Spirit caused a word in Genesis 22:8 to stand out very plain. At the time that God was testing Abraham, and he went on his way to mount Moriah to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice unto the Lord, Isaac said to his father, "Behold the fire and the wood: but where is a lamb for the burnt offering?" "And Abraham said, My son, God will provide HIMSELF a lamb, but it plainly says that God will PROVIDE HIMSELF, blessed be His name, HE became our sin-offering.

God knew that the need for redemption would arise long before there was any sin in the universe, and in His counsel and purpose He ordained that once the "purpose of the ages" was put into action, and sin did arise to enslave and corrupt creation, there was the entire way prepared for its redemption - ALL A PART OF HIS PURPOSE TO BE WROUGHT OUT. And in Revelation 13:8 we read of "The LAMB slain from the foundation of the world." And Peter also writes, we are redeemed "with the precious blood of Christ, as a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you." (1 Peter 1:19,20).

By His foreknowledge God realized that once man became engulfed in sin, that man would be weak and helpless, utterly powerless to redeem himself, so in His boundless love He pre-determined to give HIMSELF as the propitiation for our sins. "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh..." (1 Timothy 3:16). "Who HIS OWN SELF bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes we were healed." (1 Peter 2:24). "Who through the eternal Spirit offered HIMSELF without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God." (Hebrews 9:14).

Christ, by means of the eternal Spirit, offered HIMSELF; where was the eternal Spirit? He was IN Christ, for the angel had said unto Mary, "The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee." (Luke 1:35). The Spirit had fathered the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mary gave the form to it, the body of flesh, but the Spirit of God dwelt within that form, and HE, by the means of that spirit, offered HIMSELF. For what man could not do under the law, being weak through the flesh, "God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh." (Romans 8:4).

"God was IN Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself". (2 Corinthians 5:19). It was GOD who "so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..." (John 3:16). And the Son was the EXPRESSION OF UNSELFISH LOVE, OMNIPOTENT GOD WAS POURING OUT OF HIMSELF TO REDEEM HIS CREATION. O, the splendor and glory in the love of God expressed at Calvary, and the plan of redemption. And, having "made peace by the blood of His cross" (Colossians 1:20), now reconciling ALL THINGS back unto Himself. Yes, the magnitude of this entire arrangement is almost too much for us to grasp at this present time. Peace and reconciliation wrought out of His heart, overflowing, bursting forth with love unsurpassed in all ages.

And Having Made Peace

We must consider the "aspect of peace" wrought out in this redemptive operation. THE PEACE HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE. The moment that the debt was paid for our sin, by the blood of His cross, right then peace was made. Thus we only await the process of changing, that this unification might be made - and the peace manifested. The peace was made, but its manifestation awaits that hour when creation has been thoroughly changed. And so the rest of the verse (Colossians 1:20) speaks of the reconciling of all things. Now, common usage of the word "reconcile" in speech today seems to be limited to the thought of bringing back together. But the Greek word here means much more, it means TO CHANGE THOROUGHLY.

We must consider the "aspect of peace" wrought out in this redemptive operation. THE PEACE HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE. The moment that the debt was paid for our sin, by the blood of His cross, right then peace was made. Thus we only await the process of changing, that this unification might be made - and the peace manifested. The peace was made, but its manifestation awaits that hour when creation has been thoroughly changed. And so the rest of the verse (Colossians 1:20) speaks of the reconciling of all things. Now, common usage of the word "reconcile" in speech today seems to be limited to the thought of bringing back together. But the Greek word here means much more, it means TO CHANGE THOROUGHLY.

There cannot be a real unification without first a thorough change on the part of the offence. Peace was made alright, but it needs the process of changing to be completed, that it might be fully manifested. Just by way of example: Two brothers might have a disruption of fellowship through the offence of one. You cannot, in the true sense of the word, reconcile those two until first there is a change of heart on the part of the offender. As long as the offender insists in continuing his own way, regardless of the forgiveness of the other, peace is not fully manifested. There can be love flowing forth from the one side, but unless it is received - peace is yet only potential.

Then we might add this thought: World events are only an outward manifestation of the inward condition of its people. Until we have complete and true peace WITHIN, and with our God, how can there be any lasting outward peace? Churches are not filled with peace, they bite and devour, fight and wrangle, and wonder why there is no peace in their community. Preachers brow-beat their congregations with messages filled with condemnation, and wonder why the sweet peace of God disappears. Yes, the outward is a manifestation of the inward, and there is no peace within the heart of man so long as there is any opposition of will between our will and God's. Only in the measure that your will is surrendered unto God can you have true peace.

It is one thing to sing the song, "There's a deep settled peace in my soul," and yet quite another thing to actually possess it - for the price which must be paid to have that peace is a THOROUGH CHANGE. If there is one little root of self, "The flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law." (Galatians 5:17,18). So what ever root of self yet remains in us, that thing is in opposition to the Lord, and causes an inner warfare yet to be waged. O, to be fully purged of all such, that we might indeed have PEACE WITHIN, no inner agitations and turmoil, but true God-given peace.

"AND HAVING MADE PEACE" - would to God that men would begin to proclaim the GOOD NEWS that HE has made peace between God and man, even by the sacrifice of HIMSELF. "Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." (Luke 2:14). When God sent His Son as the great expression of His love for us, and HE was made "sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." (2 Corinthians 5:21), in that act PEACE WAS MADE, and the peace is there now IN CHRIST, and waiting to be manifest as we all come into Him. If you see any wrath or judgment displayed, it is not because God is angry with the sinner, backslider, but it's the wrath of God revealed AGAINST ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS. God loves His creation, but He hates this tide of iniquity that has engulfed us. That is why we can say without any hesitation, ALL THE JUDGMENT OF GOD IS ADMINISTERED IN LOVE, and it is corrective in nature, to purge the sinner, and to eradicate all sin, thus to present us "blameless" before His throne.

God Commendeth His Love Towards Us

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." How strange we have never read this in understanding; only traditions declaring the thought of God so opposite to what they really are. Doctrines filled with ancestral error and distortion - a beautiful Isle of Somewhere for all the good, and a living torment for ever for the bad. This is in direct opposition to HIS WORD, and to what Jesus taught.

"BUT GOD COMMENDETH HIS LOVE TOWARD US, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8) And if He died for sinners, WE BELIEVE HE DIED FOR ALL SINNERS, for that "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23). Again, "For I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Matthew 9:13). He knew we are all cursed with sin, but HE made peace by the blood of His cross, and therefore His thought to us are of peace, not thoughts of evil.

"TO GIVE YOU AN EXPECTED END" - actually a more correct and literal rendering of the Hebrew is, "to give you an end and an expectation." His thoughts are to give us an end, END OF WHAT? And end of sin, darkness; fear of death, etc. and to end all negation, that there may be an entrance into the freedom of the life of Christ. After we have come to an end of the shadows, all these things which are but relative, then our EXPECTATION is the receiving of those things which are enduring and unchangeable. How we need to bring our thoughts toward God into harmony with His thoughts toward us are of PEACE but what are our thoughts toward Him? When the CHRIST MIND takes over in us, and all our mind is brought into subjection of His truth, we are going to have these thoughts of peace. O, these minds of ours, feverish with contrary thoughts, how they need to be bathed with the pure cool water of His truth - the GOOD NEWS.

Called to Publish Peace

Ephesians 6:14 tells us that we need our "feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace." To have our FEET SHOD-- that means there must be something between your feet and the earth,

and here it is a readiness of the good news of peace. How do you move across this earth? In direct contact with the raw agitations of condemnation and death, or is there the GOOD NEWS OF PEACE BETWEEN YOU AND THE WORLD?

The scripture speaks of some with "feet that be swift in running to mischief." (Proverbs 6:18). And some, "their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood; their thought are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths. The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings; they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace." (Isaiah 59:7, 8)

Praise God for those who are putting on their sandals, a readiness to declare the good news of peace. Not always there to speak words of condemnation, criticism, jealousy, etc. but to speak peace. God has some good news for this benighted world. No, this isn't a false shouting of peace, only to end in sudden destruction - this is a declaring that Jesus Christ, having now made peace by the blood of His cross, is in the process of changing ALL THINGS that peace might be manifested. If this CHANGING OF ALL THINGS includes correction via a work of His judgments, alright, but the end of all the negative is coming, that our expectation might be fulfilled in the glorious purposes of God.

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, THY GOD REIGNETH." Isaiah 52:7

Publish peace and salvation, that "saviours shall come up on mount Zion... upon mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness." (Obadiah 21,17). Yes, "SAY UNTO ZION, THY GOD REIGNETH." That is why there is deliverance - God reigns. Tell the world our God reigns TODAY. Why meow about gloom and despair if there is good news that God reigneth? HE raiseth up kings and setteth them down. He is able to exalt and to abase. And right now HE is working out all things after the counsel of His own will. (see Ephesians 1:11)

FOR HE IS GOD

By Ray Prinzing

Heaven shuddered, the earth did quake,
When Satan's fall chaos did make,
This, God beheld without dismay,
O'er all, His power still held sway -
FOR HE IS GOD!

And when in man sin was released,
And Eden's fellowship had ceased,
While bondage gripped the human race,
Upon the scene came love and grace -
FOR HE IS GOD!

While earthly kings were filled with rage,
And scribes did search the scripture's paged,
God sent His Son unto this earth
To open the way for a new birth -
FOR HIS IS GOD!

And when upon the cross He hung,
And hope from every heart was wrung,
While enemies did laugh with glee,
He shed His blood to ransom thee -
FOR HE IS GOD!

While hell's legions were filled with terror,
And angels looked with wonder rare,
God wrought His purpose with great skill,
He always has, He always will -
FOR HE IS GOD!

And thus today, He still is God
For ever creature of this sod,
To lead them on-- where is no way,
In to the light of coming day -
FOR HE IS GOD!

As it is always written in Ray's publications:

NOT TO BE SOLD - this book is given free, as a ministry of love. That which is contained therein cannot be valued in terms of material goods, but is shared with others because it has become life and light to us. May it be received in the same spirit of love in which it is shared. If there be any thoughts expressed that seem to be the result of only natural thinking, we trust that a little breath of kindness will blow the chaff away, that the kernel of truth might remain to bless.