

Depths of Passion

Sermon #37 – Marshall Reeves

04/13/25 (Palm Sunday)

The pervasive theme throughout scripture is man described in

relationship to God as either children of the Father or the lover and Bride of the Son. So, which is it? It's both of course. We are the offspring of the Father created in the exact image of the only begotten Son. To what purpose? To be children of God even as we are in marital covenant union in the Son.

Gen 1:

11 "And God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, upon the earth." And it was so.

The word *kind* means to be a specific part of something separated out and based on origin or source. It relates to one's species or biological genome and requires compatibility in order to procreate. We are made in the exact image and likeness of Jesus Christ for this reason. If it were not so the promised seed would be infertile. It would have no effect upon the womb of the human and His consummation with mankind would be a failure. The seed of the fruit of resurrection life could never have conceived. This principle also applies concerning one's nature or natural being. If man's nature had been altered from that of Christ's to that of sin the insemination would have failed utterly. We know this wasn't the case because we read in

Romans 8:

29 "For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He (Christ) might be the first-born among many brethren."

and

1 Cor 15:

20”... Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.”

These statements would not be possible if we weren't of like kind. Thank the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, otherwise, we would still be dead in our sins.

So what did God have when He raised us from the grave? Was He overwhelmed by a vast amount of unruly sinners in His midst? Were the heavenly places overrun with their chaos? No, in His view He saw all of humanity as holy, innocent and righteous. If it were not so, Christ would never have been raised from the dead. Let's examine why.

1 Cor 15:

17 “And if Christ is not risen, your faith [is] futile; you are still in your sins!”

Why? Because we see in

Christ who knew no sin became sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. He became sin by taking all of humanity into Himself including our fallen mindset in Adam, the source of our sin. If Adam defined our nature, our true being, it could not be purged from us. We were something alien to the life of Christ. The great purifying of dross from gold would fail and we would remain in the grave. If sin and death were innate to who we are resurrection would not have happened.

On the other hand, if sin and death can be removed then we see that it was a parasite all along and not inborn to our original design. As a result, Christ, who is our original design, could be raised by the Father in union of righteousness with all of mankind. Sin and death were crucified, remaining in the grave forever as man was justified and made right once more in Christ.

Romans 4:

25 “who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.”

It is vitally important therefore to understand that we do not nor ever have had a sin nature. Otherwise, we cannot fully comprehend our union in kind in Christ. To be righteous means to be in covenant and to be in covenant means to possess all that your partner possesses including all that He doesn't. Sin is a mindset consumed in the belief of the lie and a lie isn't true no matter how much it is believed. Man has been the victim of the insanity of trying to live in non-reality for ages and generations. Jesus surrendered His mortal life, including the fleshly mindset of fallen Adam, leaving it in the grave. It was the very reason we're told that The Word became flesh. It was to leave the mortal body of sin and death as we were raised to new life in Him. Thus, it isn't His death that resolved our sin, it was His resurrection.

We then see that eliminating the parasitic virus isn't the goal, for even removed what would keep us from returning to it. As they say we're all fast learners and even faster forgetters. It was His resurrection into a new and incorruptible life that resolved the problem, never to be victimized by sin nor death again.

Unfortunately, the western church has focused almost exclusively on sin and death. Contrary to popular belief the Father wasn't punishing the Son in crucifixion in order for Him to pay for the sins of humanity. Faulty translations, however, give that impression. For example:

Romans 3:

25 “whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith, for a demonstration of His righteousness...”

The Greek word for *propitiation* means to appease or pay a price whereas the Hebrew word for *expiation*, *kaphar*, is the proper translation and means to cleanse, purge or cover. It is the word used for the Mercy Seat of the Ark of the Covenant in ancient Israel. It represented Jesus Christ who is the Mercy Seat for all of humanity was placed within Him for preservation. His blood was shed and placed on the cover of the ark as a seal and for the remembrance of God's cleansing. It was never the exacting from God or man of payment for sin. If God was in Christ on the cross reconciling the world to Himself and not counting trespasses against us, who was being appeased? No one, for it's nothing but a pagan concept related to idols and

false gods who never existed. Another manifestation of the insane fallen mindset of Adam. Although sin is the primary focus of today's church, it wasn't God's. I know that sounds shocking to most of you but let me explain. Sin was a catalyst that produced a mutinous result. It caused the resulting condition; it was not the resulting condition. Death was the result of sin, a state of separation and darkness. Sin was the cause of a force so absolutely destructive to our heart and mind that Paul was compelled to describe it in

Eph 4:

17 So I say this, and affirm in the Lord, that you are to no longer walk just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their minds,

18 being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness (blindness) of their heart;

Paul uses the word *ignorance* to magnify his description concerning the futility of the mind. Futility means vanity or emptiness while ignorance is a complete unawareness, a total cluelessness. Does this describe a mindset rooted in rebellion to God or one so alienated from reality that only the natural senses can be relied upon to do life. Is this a state of being necessitating punishment or healing? We know the answer by reflecting on our own life experiences. Did you really know how deep your darkness was until you began to emerge from it? Or even that you were asleep until awakened. Paul calls them the natural or physical man who does not and cannot receive the things of God for no one knows the things of God apart from the Spirit of God. In other words, it is Divine revelation that penetrates our darkness in order to awaken our mind to truth. No matter how confusing or exasperating people around us can be simply know that they can't hear nor understand what we're saying yet. They can't hear words of life yet. They're not dead, only asleep. Be encouraged for the light of His love never ceases. We are all born again (*another*-once more from above) at the resurrection of Jesus Christ. For it echoes down the halls of time. Not one is excluded. I believe the events of John 11 speak symbolically of this condition

John 11::

11 "He *said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going so that I may awaken him from sleep."

23 “Jesus *said to her (and to all of us) “Your brother (sister, father, mother, son, daughter and mate) will rise from the dead.”

25 “Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; the one who believes in Me will live, even if he dies,

26 and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?”

43 “And when He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”

44 Out came the man who had died, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus *said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

It is the voice of Jesus Christ that calls us forth. John writes in

Rev 1:

10 “I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet,”

It was the voice of Jesus speaking to him. Paul writes something analogous in

1 Cor 15:

51 “Behold, I am telling you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,

52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.”

The voice of God in Christ will call forth all who have been asleep. If you’re still a little groggy and not yet sure of what you’re hearing be patient and fear not. It is the voice of love calling His church, the *ekklesia*. The word means to be called by name. The Savior has called you and that’s the reason you’re here today. Not because you accepted Him into your heart but because He accepted you into His long, long ago.

This is an amazing picture of what we face today in the church. First of all, we're called to make disciples. Jesus said He would build His church. We are to unwrap the awakened from anything that binds them including the death veil upon the face that blinds.

Abraham's best efforts could never have produced Isaac. Sarah's dead womb is a picture of the impossibility of the flesh to produce life. It is proof of mankind's inability to redeem itself. By raising Jesus from the dead God proclaims His belief in our redeemed innocence. We are not who we think we are nor who we've been told. If our true being wasn't that which God proclaims in His glorious opinion then the human race could never be restored to something we aren't. By taking us into Himself, including all our sin past, present and future, He became us. If we were something alien in kind to God, we could never have been part of Him. This is what Jesus meant in

John 3:

3 "Jesus responded and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless someone is born again he cannot see (know) the kingdom of God."

Unless one is born from God to start with you cannot know anything of God. To be born again is to be restored to our original blueprint. The resurrection is the ultimate proof of justification in righteousness of God's faith. His covenant love cannot nor ever will be broken. Why? Because He who is Love is also His Word.

Romans 8:

38 "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Paul writes in non-exclusionary fashion. His attempt is to leave no doubt of God's faithfulness.

We could never be left behind for God doesn't do abandonment. In a practical sense He doesn't even know the meaning of the word as it relates to you and me.

So, can we confirm this and what would be the best way to do so? We would need to find an exception of course but before that we would have to test the veracity of God's character and word. Religion tells us that God doesn't really mean this and has adopted across the board doctrinal positions to prove it. To most of the modern church we are guilty until proven innocent. We are not of the same kind as God and therefore not good. We are totally depraved and purely sinners saved by grace. Our only real hope in this life is that we will earn the right to go to heaven when we die. We're only here to be tested, taunted and punished to determine if we might attain the right to salvation. That's why so many decide to party with sinners rather than suffer the misery of being a religious saint. The term salvation is defined very differently by today's church than anything I've shared. It isn't organic at all. It actually has nothing to do with the "mystery hidden from ages and generations, that is Christ in you, the hope of glory." To believe this is considered near blasphemy by many unless couched in words like "imputed" righteousness, completely changing its definition from something correct or absolute. To them it means something possible but uncertain. Sinners cannot be righteous. You'll only know if you believed enough and persevered well enough to go to heaven when you die. It is a contract, not a covenant, meaning if you don't perform all bets are off.

To make their propaganda stick they attach negative consequences. Participation is based on adherence to dogma which begins with how we relate to God. He requires a relationship based in fear. Penalties can include ostracism, shunning, gossip and even excommunication. To escape these things, you can simply leave but don't think that's the worst of it and that you can get off so easily. Because you're taught that if your relationship to God isn't deemed proper you are in danger of Hell fire which includes the doctrine of Eternal Conscious Torment. It is the ultimate stick used for control. Any relationship built on fear is temporary. It doesn't meet the definition of true relationship.

2 Timothy 1:

7 "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

The things I want to now share contradict what most of us have been taught but I ask that you all hear me out. The truth that we stand on in this ministry is that God doesn't have love, He is it. Let that sink in as you consider the following.

If you were crucified with Christ, died with Christ, were buried with Christ, born again at the resurrection of Christ, raised to new life in Christ and are seated in the heavens with Christ (all of which Scripture says), then you need not practice being what you are. In Christ (which you are) you are forgiven, accepted, undefiled, righteous, chosen, gifted, blessed, unconditionally loved, precious, reconciled. Simply be who you are. You're good enough. What if you couldn't get it wrong? I was born a Reeves. No matter what I did, right/wrong, good/bad, it could not change that I was a Reeves. DNA does not change, source does not change. You are Christ's beloved, His masterpiece, a child of the King - always. That's to ponder on, that brings life, that draws from us the fragrance of our life in Christ.

And not just you but all men. It's called the *apokostasis* meaning God's insurrection against the fall of man that is the re-genesis that restores and renews wholeness. It is taken from

Acts 3:20 "And He shall send Jesus Christ...

21) whom heaven must receive until (as) the restoration of all things, which God has spoken."

It is evidenced in many scriptures throughout. These are but a few.

Ephesians 1:10 "that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth--in Him."

John 12:32 "and if I am lifted up from the earth I will draw all people to Myself."

1 Cor 15:22 "...in Christ all shall be made alive."

Eph 4:6 "one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all."

Titus 2:11 "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared (shown light upon, become visible) to all men."

Since no one is excluded by God in Christ, when does this all take place? Apparently not in this life. There are many who have heard the Gospel but rejected it and far more who've never heard it at all.

The answer lies in the recognition that God is a consuming fire. God is also love. Therefore, we conclude that He is the consuming fire of love. This isn't a title; it is a description of His very being. But what does it mean to us?

John 19:

30 "So, when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!"

His exultant cry proclaimed the embodiment of His purpose as completed in His finished work. Where do we see the application of His emphatic statement? Look at

Rev 20:

13 "The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades (the grave-all humanity from the beginning) delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his work."

Rev 22:

12 "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward [is] with Me, to give to every one according to his work."

According to Francois du Toit both verses when taken in context refer to “His work”, meaning the work of Christ.

Isa 62:

11 “Indeed, the LORD has proclaimed To the end of the world: “Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Surely your salvation is coming; Behold, His reward [is] with Him, And His work before (face to face with) Him.’ ”

Our salvation is His finished work. As we conclude let’s read from the book of Revelation in the Mirror translation.

Revelation 1

17 ...Do not be afraid. I am the origin (alpha) and the conclusion (omega) of all things.

18 I am also the Living One; I died and now, see, here I am alive unto the ages of the ages and I have the keys wherewith I have disengaged the gates of Hades and death. (This profound statement of Jesus is the platform, theme and focus of the entire book.)

Revelation 20:

14 Then Death and Hadēs were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. (The Second Death is not to distract from the once and for all death that Jesus died, but to endorse it. In the lake of fire, Death and Hadēs are eradicated from memory. The first death is the once and for all death that Jesus died, representing the global death of humankind. Jesus’ death took mankind’s death in Adam, out of the equation. The idea of the Second Death has to do with the fact that the revelation of everyone’s inclusion in the death of Jesus, has not yet dawned on some - so it will take a crisis, often, their own death, to immediately engage them with the symbolic cleansing [from their unbelief] represented by the lake of burning sulphur, purifying like in a furnace, separating the gold from the dross-mindsets.

15 And everything that was not written in the Book of Life was poured into the lake of fire. What is cast into the symbolic lake ablaze with brimstone is not a person but a mindset. A distorted perception of identity. It is the Diablo, meaning the fallen mindset of Adam. The

authentic identity of human life is defined in the Book of Life, or the Tree of Life, representing the redeemed life of our design. Every evidence of an inferior identity will be cast into the lake of sulphur burning away the dross to reveal the gold. Any idea of an identity outside of the Book of Life, is dissolved. The Lamb's Book of Life and not the law of personal performance, defines us.

And what of those of us who have come to know Christ in this life? After all we read in

Mark 9:

49 "For everyone will be salted with fire.

Those of us who know Him will welcome the fire, embracing its warmth and even dancing in it.

Revelation 2

11 Now, listen up with your inner ears. Hear with understanding what the Spirit is saying to the ekklesia, the church: the individual who continues to see their triumph mirrored in mine [their co-seatedness with me in the throne room], is most certainly not threatened by any contradiction to their true likeness; there is nothing to fear in the second death.

Jesus is the consuming fire of love. He is the lake of fire that refines the dross and the brimstone that cleanses. Not to punish but to restore. I share these things here on Palm Sunday for those who have a need and a desire to hear them. My purpose is to comfort with the comfort with which I have been comforted. Not simply for myself but for peace concerning the ultimate destinies of those loved ones who have gone before. For many years, because of the teachings of performance-based salvation, I possessed fear and anxiety as to whether I would ever see many of them again. Today I know that I will and I so look forward to it. I'm sure we've all experienced these feelings but put away your fears for the King of Kings tells us in

Song of Solomon 8:

**6 “My passion (for you) is stronger
than the chains of death and the grave,
all-consuming as the very flashes of fire
from the burning heart of God.” TPT**

Amen