


A PRELUDE TO *BIBLICAL* EVANGELISM



A large, ancient tree with thick, gnarled roots growing over stone ruins. The tree's trunk is massive and textured, with roots spreading out across the ground and over the stone structures. The background shows more stone ruins and lush green foliage. The scene is set in a natural, outdoor environment.

THE FRUIT OF
THE RIGHTEOUS IS A
TREE OF LIFE,
AND HE WHO IS WISE
WINS SOULS.

PROVERBS 11:30 NASB

**PRINCIPLES
FOR
BIBLICAL
EVANGELISM
FOUND IN
JOHN 4, “THE
WOMAN AT
THE WELL.”**

TAKE

- TAKE THE INITIATIVE! JN. 4:6-9

OFFER

- OFFER GOD’S MERCY! JN. 4:10-14

IDENTIFY

- IDENTIFY SPIRITUAL NEEDS! JN. 4:9-10

CONFRONT

- CONFRONT SIN JN! 4:16-18

REJECT

- REJECT FALSE WORSHIP! JN. 4:19-24

REVEAL

- REVEAL CHRIST! JN. 4:25-26

NOT SPARING HIS OWN SON

- God loves us regardless of the cost. **THE CROSS IS PROOF OF THAT.** Consider what God's love for us has already cost Him: He gave His own beloved Son to die in order to accomplish our salvation. Having already paid so great a price to redeem us, He won't allow the process to stop short of the goal. And if He has already given His best and dearest on our behalf, **WHY WOULD HE WITHHOLD ANYTHING FROM US NOW?**
- Would God redeem sinners at the cost of His own Son's blood, then cast those same blood-bought believers aside? Having brought us to salvation at so great a price, would He then withhold any grace from us? Won't He finish what He started? **(Rom. 8:32)** provides us with a clear and emphatic answer: ***"He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?"***


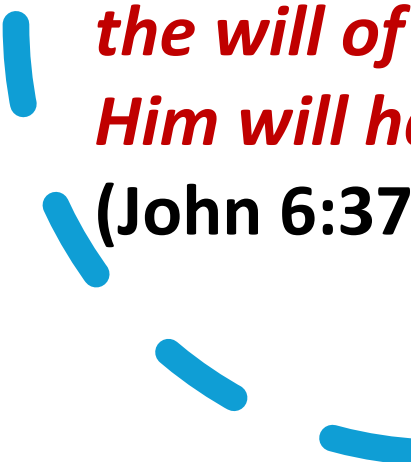
- **CHRIST'S DEATH ON THE CROSS** demonstrated His great love for sinners. Furthermore, the massive **"ONCE FOR ALL"** (Heb. 7:27) payment that purchased our redemption was also a profound statement regarding God's commitment to keep it secure.
- God gave Christ to die for us **"WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS"** (Rom. 5:8). He won't turn His back on us now that we are justified. If He didn't spurn us when we were rebellious sinners, **HE WON'T CAST US ASIDE NOW THAT WE ARE HIS CHILDREN.**
- Notice (Rom. 5:10) ***"If while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son"*** Doesn't it seem reasonable that He will do everything necessary to keep us in the fold now that we are reconciled?
- **IF HE GAVE US GRACE TO TRUST CHRIST IN THE FIRST PLACE, HE WILL ASSUREDLY GIVE GRACE TO KEEP US FROM **FALLING AWAY.****

- Notice (Psa. 84:11) says, ***“For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord gives grace and glory; no good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.”*** God is not stingy with His grace, and the proof of that is seen in the ***SACRIFICE OF CHRIST*** on our behalf. ***“BUT HE GIVETH MORE GRACE”*** (Jam. 4:6, KJV).

GOD'S PLAN FROM *ETERNITY PAST*

- The ***SACRIFICE OF CHRIST*** is eternally bound up in God's love for the elect. Did you know that in eternity past, before God had even begun the work of creation, ***HE PROMISED TO REDEEM THE ELECT?*** (Titus 1:2) says the promise of eternal life was made ***"before the world began"*** (KJV)—literally, before the beginning of time. So, this speaks of a divine promise made before anything was created.
- Who made this promise, and with whom was it made? Since it was made before creation commenced, there is only one possible answer: It was a promise made between the ***TRIUNE MEMBERS OF THE GODHEAD***. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit promised among themselves to ***REDEEM FALLEN HUMANITY***.

- The plan of **REDEMPTION** was made **NOT AFTER Adam fell** but **BEFORE the beginning of creation**. This is consistent with everything Scripture says about election. The saved are chosen in Christ ***“before the foundation of the world”*** (Eph. 1:4). God ***“called us . . . in Christ Jesus from all eternity”*** (2 Tim. 1:9). The eternal kingdom is prepared for them ***“from the foundation of the world”*** (Matt. 25:34).
- Christ was foreordained to shed His blood on their behalf ***“before the foundation of the world”*** (1 Pet. 1:20). The names of the elect are written in the Book of Life ***“from the foundation of the world”*** (Rev. 13:8; 17:8).
- This means the plan of redemption is no contingency. It is not Plan B. It is no alternative strategy.
- ***IT IS GOD’S PLAN, THE VERY PURPOSE FOR WHICH HE CREATED US.***

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- Furthermore, it means that ***THE ELECT ARE GOD'S GIFT OF LOVE TO HIS SON***. That's why Christ refers to them as ***"those whom You have given Me"*** (John 17:9, 24; 18:9). The Father has given the elect to Christ as a gift of love, and therefore not one of them will be lost.
 - Both the Father and the Son ***work together*** to ensure the fulfillment of their eternal plan of redemption. This further assures the salvation of all the elect, for as Jesus said, ***"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. . . . For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day"*** (John 6:37, 40).
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- So, ***CHRIST HIMSELF PROMISES*** TO SEE GOD'S PLAN OF ***REDEMPTION*** THROUGH TO THE END.
 - Having died as a substitute for those whom the Father gave Him, He promises to see the process through to the final consummation in glory. Likewise, the Father, having already given His Son to die on our behalf, ***WILL NOT WITHHOLD ANYTHING NECESSARY TO COMPLETE OUR REDEMPTION.*** TO GOD BE ALL THE GLORY!!!!!!!!!!!!

NO CONDEMNATION FOR *THE ELECT*!

- *Why do bad things happen to good people?* The fundamental problem with that common question is that it's back to front. The right approach is to ask **WHY GOOD THINGS HAPPEN TO BAD PEOPLE**. That question reflects an accurate reading of Scripture and an honest evaluation of ourselves.
- **WE ARE SINFUL BY NATURE AND SINNERS BY ACTION**. And we can't avoid our day in court before the great Judge to whom we are accountable. We are all in desperate need of finding some way to gain a right standing with our Creator before that inevitable day. That's why the **APOSTLE PAUL** wrote his epistle to the **ROMANS**.
- The great theme of Romans is **JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH**. That glorious doctrine—how God justifies undeserving sinners—is what fuels Paul's opening salvo in chapter 8: ***“Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus”*** (Rom. 8:1).

- There is a ***wealth of theology*** in that verse. It draws together all the threads of truth about ***justification*** that the apostle had been weaving in the preceding chapters.
- ***PAUL*** had been teaching the **Romans** that ***JUSTIFICATION*** is a forensic event whereby God ***forgives*** the sins of those who believe and instead ***IMPUTES TO THEM*** a perfect righteousness. In **chapter 4**, for example, he spoke of believers as ***“those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven, and whose sins have been covered”*** (Rom. 4:7). The Lord does not take their sins into account (Rom. 4:8). And what’s more, ***righteousness*** is reckoned to their account (Rom. 4:11). Therefore, they stand before God ***without fear*** of His righteous judgment (Rom. 8:1).

- All this hinges on **THE FACT** that they are **“IN CHRIST;”** that is, they have been united with Him by faith as **PAUL** points out in **(Rom. 6:3–5)**.
- So, consider the implications of **JUSTIFICATION**: Those who are in Christ have their sins completely forgiven; they have all the merit of Christ Himself imputed to their account. **GOD HIMSELF HAS UNDERTAKEN TO JUSTIFY THEM**. Christ has accomplished redemption on their behalf. They stand in God’s favor solely because **He decided to show grace to them**, not because of anything they did to **earn it**.
- Therefore, **PAUL** asks, if God declares them **not guilty**, **WHO IS GOING TO CONDEMN THEM? “WHO WILL BRING A CHARGE AGAINST GOD’S ELECT? GOD IS THE ONE WHO JUSTIFIES; WHO IS THE ONE WHO CONDEMNS?” (8:33–34)**.

• There's a tremendous amount of **security in the doctrine of justification by faith**. It is because of this doctrine that we can rest in our salvation as an accomplished and unalterable fact. Jesus said, ***“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life”*** (John 5:24). As **PAUL** says, ***“Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus”*** (Romans 8:1). **IT IS A DONE DEAL**, not a goal we work toward. Eternal life is a **present possession**, not a **future hope**. And our **JUSTIFICATION** is a declaration that takes place in the court of heaven, so no earthly judge can alter the verdict. When God Himself says ***“NOT GUILTY,”*** who can say otherwise?

OUR HEAVENLY HIGH PRIEST *INTERCEDES* FOR US

- The ongoing work of Christ is yet another reason ***we cannot fall*** out of favor with God. **PAUL** writes, ***“Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us”*** (Rom. 8:34).
- Did you realize that **JESUS** makes continuous **INTERCESSION** for all believers? (Heb. 7:25), echoing **PAUL’S** thought in (Rom. 8:34), says, ***“He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”*** **JESUS’S** ongoing intercession on our behalf guarantees our salvation **“FOREVER”**—literally, to the uttermost.
- How does Christ pray on our behalf? Surely what He prays is similar to the great high-priestly prayer recorded in **John 17**.

- He prays for our **SECURITY** (John 17:11–12). He prays that we might be in the world **BUT NOT OF THE WORLD** (John 17:14–15). He prays that we might be **KEPT FROM EVIL** (John 17:15). He prays for our **SANCTIFICATION** (John 17:17). He prays that we will be **ONE WITH HIM, ONE WITH THE FATHER, AND ONE WITH ONE ANOTHER** (John 17:21–23). In short, He is praying that we will be **KEPT IN THE FAITH**, that we might **“NEVER PERISH,”** and that no one would **SNATCH US OUT OF HIS HAND** (John 10:28).

- **WILL THAT PRAYER BE ANSWERED? ABSOLUTELY.** In fact, to deny that the believer is secure in Christ and secure in the love of God **is to deny** that Christ’s priestly work is sufficient. **AND TO DOUBT WHETHER THE BELIEVER MIGHT FALL OUT OF FAVOR WITH GOD IS TO MISUNDERSTAND GOD’S LOVE FOR HIS ELECT.**

- ***CHRIST'S SUBSTITUTIONARY DEATH*** in our place and ***HIS ONGOING INTERCESSION ON OUR BEHALF*** should destroy all doubt in God's power to ***SAVE US, KEEP US***, and ultimately ***BRING US TO GLORY***. Hallelujah!