

Passage: Ephesians 4:7-10

Title: The Unsearchable Measure of Grace

Summary: Have you ever stopped to consider how much grace you've actually received? Not in abstract theological terms, but in concrete, life-changing reality? The answer to that question might surprise you—because the measure of grace given to us is directly tied to the measure of Christ's gift. And when we look at the cross, when we examine the Gospel promises scattered throughout Scripture, we discover something astonishing: His grace is immeasurable, unsearchable, and continually flowing into our lives at this very moment.

Overview/Outline of the Book of Ephesians

We continue on our great adventure as we begin this study through the Book of Ephesians, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, and sometimes word-by-word. This Book takes us into breathtaking views of the greatest Christian doctrines and promises, and why it has been heralded the Swiss Alps of the New Testament.

The Book of Ephesians has a prebuilt outline to it:

- Doctrine (chapters 1-3)
- Duty (chapter 4-6)

Doctrine - is, “who is God”, “what has He done for us”, and “what does He think of us”.

Duty - is “what does He want us to do”, and “what can I ask of Him to do it (for He doesn't ask us to do anything that He will not help us, empower us, to accomplish it”. Along with that will come, “what we need to be on guard of”.

****We have to know who were re in Christ, the security of our position in Him, before we can walk victoriously, and battle spiritually. ****

Regarding that, Ephesians has a most interesting and wonderful order to it in verb tenses such as, seated, walking, and being steadfast.

- Chapter 2 – We are “Seated” with Christ in heaven
- Chapter 4 – We are called to “Walk” worthy of the calling
- Chapter 6 – We are called to “Stand” against the enemy and his ways.

*Ephesians 2:6–7 (NKJV)*⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

*Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV)*¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

*Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV)*¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Doctrine & Duty - This outline is nothing new to us, as every time we open this Bible here at CCAAC, we always ask these same 5 question. And..... apply what we learn, and what the Lord speaks to our heart as we study this treasure....

Walk Worthy

We are continuing on from last week's study where we are called to walk worthy, to live as we profess, to live as we are called to live as disciples and followers of Jesus Christ.

*Ephesians 4:1–6 (NKJV)*¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,² with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,³ endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism;⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Today's Passage

*Ephesians 4:7–10 (NKJV)*⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.⁸ Therefore He says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.”⁹ (Now this,

“He ascended”—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

Outline Ephesians 4:7-10:

- The Measure of Grace – How Much did You Receive; How Much do You Give (v7)
- The Ascension of Christ – The Sight of It; The Smell of It (v8)
- Christ Descended – What Does that Mean; Where did He Go? (v9-10)
- Christ Fulfills All Things – Are You Full? (v10)

The Word of God in Our Hand Today

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The Measure of Grace – How Much did You Receive; How Much do You Give (v7)

Ephesians 4:7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.

How Much Grace Given? – Look at Christ on the Cross to Know How Much

Verse seven says, "You will know the amount of grace that you've received according to the measure of Christ gift that was given to you." And so we go and we look at the Gospel and the promises, such as John 3:16, 1 John 4, Ephesians 3:8, the unsearchable riches, Ephesians 3, the love of Christ and it's four dimensions and what we see is Christ gift is in measurable and unsearchable and finding out it is so vast, thus is how much grace we have been given and His grace is continual than how much grace we are being given right now today.

1 John 4:8–11 (NKJV) ⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

John 3:16–17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Ephesians 3:8 (NKJV) ⁸ To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

Grace

Grace, what do we get from God that we don't deserve? Love, forgiveness, kindness, goodness, favor, adoption, salvation, gentleness, faithfulness.

David Shows Kindness to Mephibosheth

So David said to him, “Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father’s sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather; and you shall eat bread at my table continually.” — 2 Samuel 9:7

SEVERAL YEARS EARLIER, David made a covenant with Jonathan, Saul's son. David promised, for Jonathan's sake, that when he came to the throne, he would treat the family of Saul with great kindness. So once David was on the throne and had been blessed and prospered by God, David sought to find one of Saul's descendants that he might show kindness.

In the same way that David sought a descendant to show kindness, God is seeking the lost that He might show the exceeding richness of His love and kindness towards them through Jesus Christ. This is what makes Christianity different from religion. In religion, men seek God. In Christianity, God seeks lost men.

Mephibosheth was actually frightened when he was brought to David, because he didn't know David's intent. So often we misunderstand God and imagine Him as being angry or disgusted with us. We think He's seeking us that He might come down on us with a heavy hand. But we're wrong.

David wanted to bless Mephibosheth for Jonathan's sake. God wants to bless us for Christ's sake.

It's Not Because We Deserve It— It's Because Jesus Wants Us As His Inheritance.

Just as Mephibosheth dined at the king's table as part of the king's family, we too have been brought into the family of God and invited to come and sit at His table.

2 Samuel 9:1-7 (NKJV) ¹ Now David said, "Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" ² And there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba. So when they had called him to David, the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" He said, "At your service!" ³ Then the king said, "Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, to whom I may show the kindness of God?" And Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan who is lame in his feet." ⁴ So the king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "Indeed he is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, in Lo Debar." ⁵ Then King David sent and brought him out of the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo Debar. ⁶ Now when Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, had come to David, he fell on his face and prostrated himself. Then David said, "Mephibosheth?" And he answered, "Here is your servant!" ⁷ So David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father's sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather; and you shall eat bread at my table continually."

Context of Eph 4:1-6

Verse seven. This verse ties back to verses one through six, the grace we have received therefore should be the grace we extend and give to others. Can I ask you a question how gracious, how grace giving are you?

Ephesians 4:1-6 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, ² with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, ³ endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Christians Miss It So Often on Giving Grace

Here's where I think so many Christians miss it on grace.

- Grace means is getting what you don't deserve.
- Mercy is not getting what you deserve.

For example, man deserves punishment for breaking God's law, but God in mercy doesn't punish them, but Jesus instead takes the punishment. Now, grace is getting what we don't deserve, such as love, forgiveness, and acceptance. So where too many Christians miss it, especially when someone offends or hurts them, they may give the person mercy by not giving the person what they deserve, such as wrap, a tongue lashing, but many Christians won't ever give mercy at that (they just let it fly and lay that person out with a flurry of tongue lashings and stinging words). But the Christian who doesn't, and they give mercy, many still confused that that is enough. They think, I've been merciful, I didn't attack, but they miss is that they didn't give grace. Mercy yes, grace no.

They refuse to give that person what they don't deserve. Grace, they won't give love, forgiveness, kindness, acceptance because they don't feel the person deserves it because what they have done.

Imagine our Christian life if God only gave us mercy saying, "I won't pour out my wrath on you for breaking my command and not honoring me as Lord of the universe." Imagine if he gave mercy yes, but no grace. Imagine

no getting what we don't deserve that comes with grace such as love, acceptance and kindness. We can't because for God, mercy and grace are inseparable. They are part of His very being, His very core, who He is. The two, mercy and grace move in perfect unison and conjunction together.

So this great measure of grace given to us, what are we to do with it? We are to use it like God uses it. Philippians 2 says, "Let this mind be in you." Romans 8 tells us, "Being conformed into his image and likeness."

*Philippians 2:5-8 (NKJV)*⁵ *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,*⁶ *who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,*⁷ *but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.*⁸ *And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.*

*Romans 8:28-30 (NKJV)*²⁸ *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*²⁹ *For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.*³⁰ *Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.*

Will You Give Grace to Those Who Don't Deserve It?

For you to that person who's offended you or not, but to any person, I'm going to love you even when you don't deserve it. I'm going to be kind. I'm going to be gentle. I'm going to be forgiveness and show you favor even when you don't deserve it because that's what grace does and that's what grace is.

The Ascension of Christ – The Sight of It; The Smell of It (v8)

Ephesians 4:8 Therefore He says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.”

The Gift – Is Eternal Life & Relationship with Jesus

The first gift He gives is the gift of salvation and with that great gift comes the unsearchable gift and that is the gift of His presence and personal relationship with Him.

Luke 4:18 – Sets the Captivity Free

Verse 8, He led captivity captive just as he said in Luke 4:18 His mission statement was to set the captives free.

*Luke 4:18-19 (NKJV)*¹⁸ *“The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; ¹⁹ To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.”*

The First Captives

The first captives set free we saw in Matthew 27 after the resurrection, when the graves were opened and many of the saints who had died rose from the grave (more on that in our next verse).

(Matthew 27:50-53 KJV). *Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.*

Quoting Psalm 68 – Warrior God!

Verse 8, is a quote from Psalm 68 and the whole Psalm is about the Lord being a mighty Warrior! He is the victorious warrior God and it is quoted so we back and read Psalm 68 and read of His greatness.

*Psalm 68:18 (NKJV)*¹⁸ *You have ascended on high, You have led captivity captive; You have received gifts among men, Even from the rebellious, That the LORD God might dwell there.*

Psalm 68 (NKJV)

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. A Song. ¹ *Let God arise, Let His enemies be scattered; Let those also who hate Him flee before Him.* ² *As smoke is driven away, So drive them away; As wax melts before the fire, So let the wicked perish at the presence of God.* ³ *But let the righteous be glad; Let them rejoice before God; Yes, let them rejoice exceedingly.* ⁴ *Sing to God, sing praises to His name; Extol Him who rides on the clouds, By His name YAH, And rejoice before Him.* ⁵ *A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, Is God in His holy habitation.* ⁶ *God sets the solitary in families; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity; But the rebellious dwell in a dry land.* ⁷ *O God, when You went out before Your people, When You marched through the wilderness, Selah ⁸ The earth shook; The heavens also dropped rain at the presence of God; Sinai itself was moved at the presence of God, the God of Israel.* ⁹ *You, O God, sent a plentiful rain, Whereby You confirmed Your inheritance, When it was weary.* ¹⁰ *Your congregation dwelt in it; You, O God, provided from Your*

goodness for the poor. ¹¹ The Lord gave the word; Great was the company of those who proclaimed it: ¹² “Kings of armies flee, they flee, And she who remains at home divides the spoil. ¹³ Though you lie down among the sheepfolds, *You will be* like the wings of a dove covered with silver, And her feathers with yellow gold.” ¹⁴ When the Almighty scattered kings in it, It was *white* as snow in Zalmon. ¹⁵ A mountain of God *is* the mountain of Bashan; A mountain of *many* peaks *is* the mountain of Bashan. ¹⁶ Why do you fume with envy, you mountains of *many* peaks? *This is* the mountain *which* God desires to dwell in; Yes, the LORD will dwell *in it* forever. ¹⁷ The chariots of God *are* twenty thousand, *Even* thousands of thousands; The Lord is among them *as in* Sinai, in the Holy Place. ¹⁸ *You have ascended on high, You have led captivity captive; You have received gifts among men, Even from the rebellious, That the LORD God might dwell there.* ¹⁹ Blessed *be* the Lord, *Who* daily loads us *with benefits*, The God of our salvation! Selah ²⁰ Our God *is* the God of salvation; And to God the Lord *belong* escapes from death. ²¹ *But God will wound the head of His enemies*, The hairy scalp of the one who still goes on in his trespasses. ²² The Lord said, “I will bring back from Bashan, I will bring *them* back from the depths of the sea, ²³ That your foot may crush *them* in blood, And the tongues of your dogs *may have* their portion from *your* enemies.” ²⁴ They have seen Your procession, O God, The procession of my God, my King, into the sanctuary. ²⁵ The singers went before, the players on instruments *followed* after; Among *them* were the maidens playing timbrels. ²⁶ Bless God in the congregations, The Lord, from the fountain of Israel. ²⁷ There *is* little Benjamin, their leader, The princes of Judah *and* their company, The princes of Zebulun *and* the princes of Naphtali. ²⁸ Your God has commanded your strength; Strengthen, O God, what You have done for us. ²⁹ Because of Your temple at Jerusalem, Kings will bring presents to You. ³⁰ Rebuke the beasts of the reeds, The herd of bulls with the calves of the peoples, *Till everyone* submits himself with pieces of silver. Scatter the peoples *who* delight in war. ³¹ Envoys will come out of Egypt; Ethiopia will quickly stretch out her hands to God. ³² Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth; Oh, sing praises to the Lord, Selah ³³ *To Him who rides on the heaven of heavens, which were of old! Indeed, He sends out His voice, a mighty voice.* ³⁴ *Ascribe strength to God; His excellence is over Israel, And His strength is in the clouds.* ³⁵ *O God, You are more awesome than Your holy places. The God of Israel is He who gives strength and power to His people. Blessed be God!*

2 Cor 2 / The Roman Parade

2 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ *Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.*

Who always leads us in triumph in Christ: Here, Paul takes an image from the Roman world, seeing Jesus as the victorious, conquering general in a triumphal parade. A Roman triumphal parade was given to successful generals as they returned from their conquests.

i. “The idea is borrowed from an ancient Roman triumph, which to the eyes of the world of that day was the most glorious spectacle which the imagination could conceive.” (Meyer)

ii. “In a Triumph the procession of the victorious general marched through the streets of Rome to the Capitol ... First came the state officials and the senate. Then came the trumpeters. Then were carried the spoils taken from the conquered land ... Then came the pictures (billboards) of the conquered land and models of conquered citadels and ships. There followed the white bull for sacrifice which would be made. Then there walked the captive princes, leaders, soldiers, and generals in chains, shortly to be flung into prison and in all probability almost immediately to be executed. Then came the lictors (the city police) bearing their rods, followed by the musicians with their lyres; then the priests swinging their censers with the sweet-smelling incense burning in them. After that came the general himself ... finally came the army wearing all their decorations and shouting *Io triumphe* (victory, victory)! Their cry of triumph. As the procession moved through the streets, all decorated and garlanded, amid the cheering crowds, it made a tremendous day which might happen only once in a lifetime.” (Barclay)

iii. “That is the picture that is in Paul’s mind. He sees Christ marching in triumph throughout the world, and himself in that conquering train. It is a triumph which, Paul is certain, nothing can stop.” (Barclay)

*David Guzik. (2013). *2 Corinthians (2 Co 2:14)*. Santa Barbara, CA: David Guzik.

Nothing Can Stop

iii. “That is the picture that is in Paul’s mind. He sees Christ marching in triumph throughout the world, and himself in that conquering train. It is a triumph which, Paul is certain, nothing can stop.” (Barclay)

Nothing can stop our King, and it flows so fitting where we ended last week.....

Ephesians 4:6 *one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

Victory Parades Today for Sports Champions

We see it today in sports championships, when a victorious team comes home and the city center is packed on both sides of the street, the victorious team is in convertibles, or open trailers, and the team is waving and

the people are cheering, and the confetti is flying from the roof tops, and the music is blasting, it is a victory parade. So the image here for us in our passage.

The Triumph Parade belongs to Jesus.

Paul felt Part of the Army of the Lord / We are Too

And, Paul sees himself as sharing in the triumph of Jesus, the Captain of the Lord's Army, and Paul is one of the Lord's chief officers! We are too, as we get to be part of the Lord's army fighting for the souls of men.

But More So – We are the Conquered

But more so, for us, we are the conquered, the captors, who the Lord has won through the war on the cross, we are His spoils, His treasures!

The Victory is “In Christ” and Nowhere Else!

Leads us: Paul wanted the Corinthian Christians to realize that he followed his general, Jesus Christ. Paul can almost see Jesus' triumphal parade winding its way through the whole Roman Empire, throughout the entire world. Notice it says “in Christ”; the victory is found and in one place and one place only, “in Christ”. [2 Corinthians 2:14 \(NKJV\)](#)¹⁴ *Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.*

The Memory of a Smell

Diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge: Fragrance, in the form of incense, was common at the Roman triumphal parade. In Paul's mind, this fragrance is like the knowledge of God, which people can smell as the triumphal parade comes by.

i. No sense remains in the memory like scent. There is nothing we remember more strongly than pleasant smells, except perhaps unpleasant smells. “Thus the apostle wished that his life might be a sweet perfume, floating on the air, reminding me, and above all reminding God, of Christ.” (Meyer)

ii. “A sweet savour of Christ! It does not consist so much in what we do, but in our manner of doing it; not so much in our words or deeds, as in an indefinable sweetness, tenderness, courtesy, unselfishness, and desire to please others to their edification. It is the breath and fragrance of a life hidden with Christ in God, and deriving its aroma from fellowship with Him. Wrap the habits of your soul in the sweet lavender of your Lord's character.” (Meyer)

Paul is saying that we, as his conquered, are his victory parade, winding ourselves around the whole Earth. And as we do, there's this diffusion of fragrance everywhere, the aroma of Christ to the whole world. You, Christian, are the aroma of Christ to the world, you are a part of the gift of fragrance that God gives to the world to tell them there is hope, to tell them there's a place that they can be accepted and forgiven and loved and received. You are his fragrance, his aroma. How does that make you feel? What does that make you feel? What do you think of yourself? What have you thought of yourself? If you thought yourself anything less than the aroma of Christ, then you have shortened and short-selled yourself of who you really are. You're the fragrance of Christ, in his victory and victory of love.

Fragrance, you can walk into a room and smell something and be triggered back into the memory of something a year ago, a decade ago, even back to your childhood. There's something about fragrance that locks into our mind and brings us some remembrance. We see it in the marketing of many stores, however subtle it may be, but they put a fragrance in their store for their clothing wear. So that when you smell that as you walk through the mall or smell it some other place, it triggers you to think of their clothing line. And of course, how about fragrance of food? When you smell it, it brings you to a place of desiring that delicacy, maybe the fragrance of certain foreign smells, and when you smell it again, it reminds you of places that you've been. I can't help but go into an Indian restaurant and be reminded of my trip to Israel. I can't help but

go into a Middle Eastern restaurant and be reminded of the smells of Israel and everything else that comes with it.

Always Leads Us – Today He Leads Us

And notice it says, "always leads us." This isn't just speaking of the victorious entry into heaven. It speaks of now, God through the Holy Spirit always leads us and he will always lead us victoriously in power and might. This is what's available to us as we study the Book of Ephesians. This is the gift that has been promised to us, the spiritual inheritance, the unsearchable riches that are in Christ Jesus because the victory, the triumph is in Christ. And this is where the promise comes, and this is something that we can take and live powerfully in our life that he always leads us.

Christian, will you allow him to lead you today? Will you say the victory has been won? You conquered my heart upon the cross and now I yield myself for you to conquer my will and my way and that you would be triumphant and victorious in my life and everything that you put before and in my life.

Christ Descended – What Does that Mean; Where did He Go? (v9)

Ephesians 4:9 (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?

Ephesians 4:10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

We Know for Sure

Well we know for sure, that Jesus left heaven came to earth (descended), and after His death-burial-resurrection, and 40 days He ascended back to His throne.

Acts 1:1-3 (NKJV) ¹ The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, ² until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, ³ to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

Imagine, the King who descended at His moment before the cross:

John 19:1-3 (NKJV) ¹ So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him. ² And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. ³ Then they said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck Him with their hands.

John 19:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin."

John 19:30 (NKJV) ³⁰ So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Where Did He Go

Maybe you wonder, well, where did Jesus's spirit and soul go during those three days after the crucifixion? Remind you, our bodies are not us. They're just the carriers of the real house, the inner man. So Jesus still had a soul spirit, where did He go?

Remember Thief on the Cross - Paradise

Do you remember the thief on the cross who said remember me when you come into your kingdom, and Jesus said today you will be with me in paradise? Well where is paradise?

Luke 23:40-43 (NKJV) ⁴⁰ But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation?" ⁴¹ And he indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." ⁴³ And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

Hades & Paradise (Abraham's Bosom)

Jesus Christ spent 3 days in Paradise after the cross. Hell had 2 parts in it from the time of Abel through the death of Jesus.

1. Hades - where God rejecting people went and still go.

2. Abraham Bosom (paradise). This place was for those who died before Jesus died for their sins, but believed a Messiah would come. No one could/can go to heaven without the shed blood of Jesus. Entrance is only by paid admission. Jesus paid the price, but you still have to get the ticket from Him.

Jesus tells the story of Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31. Note, that Jesus doesn't call this a parable, it is an actual true story He is telling.

Luke 16:19-31 (NKJV) ¹⁹ “There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. ²⁰ But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, ²¹ desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴ “Then he cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.’ ²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.’ ²⁷ “Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father’s house, ²⁸ for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’ ²⁹ Abraham said to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ ³⁰ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ ³¹ But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’ ”

Luke 16:23 (KJV 1900) -23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

Hell in the Bible (Hebrew and Greek)

Now in the Bible many times hell is just called hell in the English translation. But in the original Hebrew and Greek, different words are use and give more specific definition of what is being said. So here a summary that.

- Hell (Hades – Greek, Sheol – Hebrew) both are referring to the same place, the place where unbelievers went and still go today, before the final judgement.
- Hell (Gehenna – Greek) is the place of eternal punishment, the final “unresting” place. It is also known and called the “Lake of Fire”, Lake of Fire and Brimstone”, Place of Outer Darkness. This final judgement will come at the end of the end, after the 1,000 year Millennial Kingdom, when God will judge the devil, and what is called the “White Throne” judgement, where every person who did not receive the sacrifice promised and provided (Jesus the Lamb of God) will be judged for their sin of breaking God’s Law, and not honoring Him as God of the Universe.

Luke 16:23 (KJV 1900) -23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

Mark 9:42-44 (NKJV) ⁴² “But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea. ⁴³ If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell (*Gehenna*), into the fire that shall never be quenched—⁴⁴ where ‘Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.’

Revelation 20:14-15 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the *lake of fire*.

Revelation 20:7-10 (NKJV) ⁷ Now when the *thousand years have expired*, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸ and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. ⁹ They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰ The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the *lake of fire and brimstone* where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Revelation 20:11-15 (NKJV) ¹¹ Then I saw a great *white throne* and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the *Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. ¹⁴ Then *Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.* ¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the *Book of Life* was cast into the *lake of fire*.

Matthew 25:29-30 (NKJV) ²⁹ ‘For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the unprofitable servant into the *outer darkness*. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Jesus Proclaimed I Am the One You Believed On

Verse 9, when he descended to Abraham's bosom, He proclaimed, "I am the one you believed on and have been waiting for." To those on the other side, those in Hades, He preached their judgement upon them, saying I am the one you rejected, I am He. To one side it was life, to the other side it was death, and both were eternal for man is an eternal being. He didn't preach for decision when he went to Abraham's bosom. He preached the good news that those who had waited faithfully for Him to come has come. Now, to the other side, He preached their damnation for rejecting the sacrificial system that would cover their sin.

1 Peter 3:18–20 (NKJV) ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, ¹⁹ by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

How Did OT Believers – Believe?

Well, how did they believe the people who believed that there would come a rescuer, a Messiah that they waited for? In Genesis 3, the first mention of the gospel, the picture of the Devil bruising Jesus (bruising His heel), but Jesus crushing Satan (bruise your head). Then they believed in the sacrificial system for the covering of sin. They believe that the shedding of blood could cover their sin, but They knew there was more to come.

Genesis 3:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

Daniel 9 clearly says, "Messiah, the Prince. The rescuer would come." Through David, the Messiah would come, was a promise. Many confuse the Messiah to come and deliver them from the oppressor of Rome. They missed that the Messiah was to come deliver them from the oppressor of sin and death.

Daniel 9:24–25 (NKJV) ²⁴ "Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy. ²⁵ "Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.

Jesus, His mission statement in Luke 4 is prophesied in Isaiah 61.

Isaiah 61:1–3 (NKJV) ¹ "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ² To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, ³ To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified."

It's Abraham's bosom because He's the comforter. He was the one who was saying that the Messiah would come. Abraham would know because Genesis 22, Abraham was there for the perfect foreshadow of the picture, and He was the one who said the Lord will provide himself the sacrifice. And when you read through the sacrificial system, it's always been a lamb. You'll read it in Genesis, and Exodus, and Leviticus, and John, and Hebrews.....

Genesis 22:6–8 (NKJV) ⁶ So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. ⁷ But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸ And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together.

When Jesus said it was done, He meant it was complete. Interestingly, the very top of Mount Moriah, the exact place that Abraham would take Isaac to be sacrificed, but then God would provide the lamb. The tip and top of Mount Moriah is the same place as Golgotha where Jesus was crucified and that is 777 meters high. Seven a number of completion.

Leviticus 14:24–25 (NKJV) ²⁴ And the priest shall take the lamb of the trespass offering and the log of oil, and the priest shall wave them as a wave offering before the LORD. ²⁵ Then he shall kill the lamb of the trespass offering, and the priest shall take some of the blood of the trespass offering and put it on the tip of the right ear of him who is to be cleansed, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot.

Exodus 12:2–7 (NKJV) ² "This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you. ³ Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household. ⁴ And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the

number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶ Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. ⁷ And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it.

John 1:29 (NKJV) ²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

John 19:30 (NKJV) ³⁰ So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Today Israel Still Looks for Messiah / Many People Not Making it to the Top of the Mount

Today, if you ask them in Israel, "How will you know your Messiah?" They say, "He will bring peace." And many of them will tie that to the rebuilding of the temple.

The temple was a picture of foreshadow, hence why it wasn't on the peak of Mount Moriah. The very peak is where sacrifices would be made, but for the temple, David was pointed exactly where to build it because it was only a foreshadow.

People then and today don't make it to the top of the mountain where salvation is found. They miss it. They're practicing a foreshadow that has been superseded. Therefore, it is a voided system.

3rd Temple – Do This IN Remembrance of Me

Interestingly, the third temple will be rebuilt in the last days, and sacrificial system will be re-instituted and the question is why would animal sacrifice be in the third temple. During the millennial kingdom, and the reason is it's not for the forgiveness or covering of sin, but it will be a remembrance of the sacrifice that was made by the final land. It is in essence, communion, as we're told, "Do this in remembrance of me as we break the bread and take the cup." Well, that's what is going to be the animal sacrifice. As we'll always remember, without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sin and Jesus Christ paid the price completely as He said, "It is done."

Ezekiel 45:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ And one lamb shall be given from a flock of two hundred, from the rich pastures of Israel. These shall be for grain offerings, burnt offerings, and peace offerings, to make atonement for them," says the Lord GOD.

Paradise is Empty – Hades still being Filled

The other side of Hell still remains occupied and is receiving people daily sad to say, but not paradise, it is empty. The first captives set free we saw in Matthew 27 after the resurrection, when the graves were opened and many of the saints who had died rose from the grave. But today, to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. Paradise is shut down. Houdini said he would escape death, so they put a telephone in his crypt so that he would call when he did so, several years later the phone was disconnected. Jesus Christ is the only escape from death.

(Matthew 27:50-53 KJV). Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

2 Corinthians 5:6-8 (NKJV) ⁶ So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. ⁷ For we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸ We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

God Wishes None Perish

Again, those remaining in the hell side will be resurrected after the 1000-year reign, will stand before God's white throne judgement, and then be cast into Gahanna, outer darkness, where they see nothing, but experience pain, forever and ever. Hell is real, Jesus preached that there is a heaven and hell. But Jesus wishes none should go there.

2 Peter 3:8-9 (NKJV) ⁸ But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

You Must Be Born Again

Jesus said unless a man is born again, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

John 3:3 (NKJV) ³ Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

1 Thessalonians 5 tells us that we are body, spirit, and soul. Now I am not making a definitive statement, but what it appears to me, and again I acknowledge upfront that I don't know for sure (but neither does anyone else other than God), but it appears to me as I study the scripture that man is born as a body and soul. The body is simply the vessel to carry the soul, and the soul is the person, and the person is an eternal being, as the soul lives on forever. So man is born as a body and soul. Hence why we take such a strong position against abortion, for every child at conception is an eternal being and thus man is deceived to think a child in the womb is simply tissue. So man is born body and soul, and thus they are born once at that point. When He says you must be born again, that is when the Spirit of God enters a person, after they believe in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sin, and as "holy vessels" God now comes at takes up residence in them, and they become new man/woman, and "new" means born again..... a second birth, this one of the Spirit. Have you been born again?

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 (NKJV) ²³ Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

Ephesians 1:13 (NKJV) ¹³ In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

John 20:22 (NKJV) ²² And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

Christ Fulfills All Things – Are You Full? (v10)

Ephesians 4:10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

The Victorious King

Verse 10 says, "To fulfill all things." Well, He's fulfilling His mission statement on Luke 4:18. He's also fulfilling the promise that was given, "Until I make your enemies your footstool."

Acts 2:34-36 (NKJV) ³⁴ "For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, ³⁵ Till I make Your enemies Your footstool." ' ³⁶ "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

(Col 2:14-15 NIV) having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Are You Full?

Christ fulfills all things, and if your life is empty and missing something, then something is amiss in your life, because Christ fulfills all things. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst, for they shall be full!

Psalms 16:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Matthew 5:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.

Today's Passage

Ephesians 4:7-10 (NKJV) ⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." ⁹ (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

Outline Ephesians 4:7-10:

- The Measure of Grace – How Much did You Receive; How Much do You Give (v7)
- The Ascension of Christ – The Sight of It; The Smell of It (v8)

- Christ Descended – What Does that Mean; Where did He Go? (v9-10)
- Christ Fulfills All Things – Are You Full? (v10)

The Word of God in Our Hand Today

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

End of Study