**Now and Forever**

***Php 2:5*** *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:*

*Php 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:*

*Php 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:*

Assuming our God given identity is the theme of the Gospel. We are bone of his bones and flesh of his flesh. We were created in the image of God and given dominion over all things. Although Jesus was God, he came in the flesh to minister the things of the kingdom unto men. He commissioned us to minister to others in the same manner. We were created to fill the earth with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord.

The Gospel becomes powerfully active in our lives as we come to the correct knowledge about who God is and who we are.

***2 Peter 1:3 Amp*** *For His divine power has bestowed upon us all things that [are requisite and suited] to life and godliness, through the [full, personal knowledge of Him] who called us by and to His own glory and excellence.*

Once the Spirit comes to dwell in our lives, we will never be separated from him again.

***1Th 4:17*** *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

As we consider that concept, we need to re-consider our idea about what our life after death will involve. If the message for us now is to see ourselves as one with the Father just as Jesus is one with the Father, never to be separated from Him again, perhaps our concept of heaven has been distorted by traditions and religion.

**Matthew 6:9-10. . .***Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.*

If it is God’s will for us to have the mind that we are one with Him here and now, then that same principle will continue in heaven, or in the afterlife. The only difference is that in the afterlife, we will not have a flesh body to oppose the law of God.

***Rom 8:7*** *Because the carnal minds is enmity* ***[to oppose, hostile]*** *against God: for it is not subject to the law* ***[the principles that define his will]*** *of God, neither indeed can be.*

The flesh will return to dust, but the Spirit will return to God.

***Ecc 12:7*** *Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.*

We came from Him and we are going back to Him.

***Eph 1:4*** *According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:*

We will be given a new name. His name. We will totally assume His identity. It is an identity born out of relationship.

***Rev 2:17*** *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.*

***Rev 3:12*** *Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.*

*second death.*

***Rev 21:9*** *And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.*

*Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,*

*Rev 21:11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;*

*Rev 21:22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.*

*Rev 21:23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.*

Jesus and His Father were one.

***Joh 1:1*** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

*Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.*

We will be one with the Father in the fullest sense. While we are alive in this body, He is in us. When the flesh body dies, we will return to being “in Him.”

***1Co 15:47*** *The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.*

***1Co 15:48*** *As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.*

***1Co 15:49*** *And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.*

It has been God’s plan from the very beginning.

***Eph 1:9*** *Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:*

*Eph 1:10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:*

*Eph 1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:*

But what about the mansion that He is preparing for me?

***Joh 14:2*** *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

*Joh 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

Jesus was comforting His disciples. He said that he was going to leave them, but that He would prepare a way that would enable them to be with Him where He was. Jesus was always in the presence of His Father because He and His Father were one. Where is the Father’s house? It is in us. Jesus was preparing a way for the disciples to continually be in the presence of the Father. He was preparing to send the Holy Spirit to them.

***Joh 14:16*** *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;*

***Joh 14:17*** *Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*

At that day, the day the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in men, men will know that they are “one with the Father.”

***Joh 14:20*** *At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.*

Where is the temple of God? We are the temple of God.

What are the principles of the kingdom?

***Rom 14:17*** *For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.*

Jesus made a way for the disciples to experience the things of the kingdom **[righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost]** while they were on earth. The mansion has already been prepared, and we already have access to it. It is the Holy Spirit that dwells in us [in the Father’s house] that gives us a direct connection to the Father and the things of the kingdom while we are living in the flesh body.

***Eph 1:10*** *That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:*

*Eph 1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:*

*Eph 1:12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.*

*Eph 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,*

*Eph 1:14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*

At this moment, He is “in us.” When the flesh body is dissolved, we will once again be “in Him.”

***2Co 5:1*** *For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*

*2Co 5:2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:*

*2Co 5:3 If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.*

*2Co 5:4 For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.*

*2Co 5:5 Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.*

*2Co 5:6 Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:*

There is coming a day, when the spirit returns to the Spirit, that we will clearly see who we are.

***1Co 13:12*** *For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*

***1Jn 3:2*** *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

Jesus was the Word, and the Word was God and the Word was with God.

As Jesus is, so are we in this world, and in the world to come!