

FISHERS OF MEN

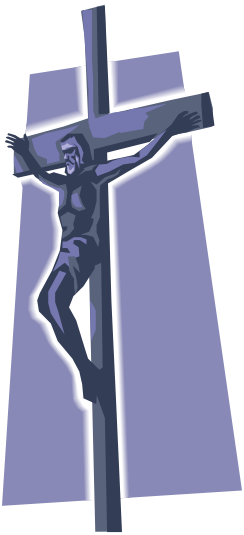
"And he said unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." - Matthew 4:19

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Fishers of Men Ministries
Jesus Loves You!

A Newsletter For and By Saints of Christ in Prison

HOLY, BLAMELESS AND PERFECT



Often as a Christian, I am asked why did Christ suffer and die...and daily I am challenged to find new and deeper meaning according to the scriptures of the reasons my Savior suffered and died for me...to make us (me) holy, blameless and perfect.

For by a single offering, He was perfected for all time those who are being sanctified (Hebrews 10:10). He has now reconciled (you) in His body to flesh by His death in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him. (Col 1:22) Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you are unleavened for Christ, our Passover Lamb that has been sacrificed (1 Cor 5:7).

One of the greatest heartaches in my Christian life has been the slowness of my change. Often people tell me to love God with all my heart and soul and mind and strength (Mark 12:30). As Christians, do we ever really rise to that totality of affection and devotion? We cry out regularly with the Apostle Paul, "Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? (Romans 7:24). Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own because Christ Jesus has made me his own." (Phil 3:12) That very statement is the key to endurance and joy, "Christ Jesus has made me His own." I now realize that all of my reaching and yearning and even striving is not to belong to Christ (which has already happened), but to complete what is lacking in my likeness to Him. One of the greatest sources of joy for me is knowing that in the imperfection of my progress I have already been perfected and that this is owing to the suffering and death of Christ, "For by a single offering (namely himself), He has perfected for all times those who are being sanctified." (Heb 10:14) This to me is amazing because in the same sentence He says that we are "being sanctified" and we are already "perfected."

Being sanctified to me means that I am imperfect and in progress. I am becoming holy, but I am not fully holy. The joyful encouragement here is that the evidence of our perfection before God is not our experienced perfection, but our experienced progress. The good news is that being on the way is proof that we have arrived.

The Bible pictures this again in the old language of dough and leaven (yeast). In the picture, leaven is evil; we are the lump of dough. It says, "Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed." (1 Cor 5:7). Christians are "unleavened." There is no leaven, no



evil, we are perfected. For this reason, we are to cleanse out the old leaven, we have been made unleavened in Christ, and so we should now become unleavened in practice. In other words, we should become what we are.

The basis of all this for Christians...Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed. The suffering of Christ secures our perfection so firmly that it should already be a reality in all of our lives. Therefore, we fight against our sin not simply to become perfect, but because we are. The death of Jesus is the key to battling our imperfections on the firm foundation of our perfection.

Your Brother in Christ, Larry

I KNOW WHO I AM!

I am God's child (John 1:12)
I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)
I am united with the Lord (1 Cor 6:17)
I am bought with a price (1 Cor 6:19-20)
I am a saint (set apart for God) (Eph. 1:1)
I am a personal witness of Christ (Acts 1:8)
I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt 5:13-14)
I am a member of the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27)
I am free forever from condemnation (Rom. 8:1-2)
I am a citizen of Heaven, I am significant (Phil. 3:20)
I am free from any charge against me (Rom. 8:31-34)
I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Cor. 5:17-21)
I have access to God through the Holy Spirit. (Eph 2:18)
I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms. (Eph. 2:6)
I cannot be separated from the love of God (Rom. 8: 35-39)
I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor. 1: 21-22)
I am assured that all things work together for good (Rom: 8:28)
I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit. (John 15: 16)
I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph. 3: 12)
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. (Phil 4: 13)
I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15: 1-5)
I am God's temple (1 Cor. 3:16). I am complete in Christ (Col. 2:10)
I am hidden with Christ in God (Col 3:3) I have been justified (Romans 5:1)
I am God's co-worker (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor 6:1) I am God's workmanship (Eph 2:10)
I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected (Phil 1:5)
I have been redeemed and forgiven (Col 1:14) I have been adopted as God's child (Eph 1:5)

I BELONG TO GOD!

THE HUMOROUS SIDE OF GOD



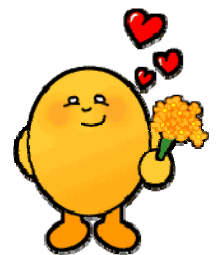
On August 11, at approximately 10:30 p.m., a funny thing happened to me...well not really, but I thought it was, to me it showed the humorous side of God.

After saying my nighttime prayers before going to bed, I added, "Oh yeah Lord, do you think I can get the count lights turned off?" And at that very moment, the lights went out. Well, I started laughing and laughing. I said, "Thank you God... I'm glad you have a sense of humor," and I laughed myself to sleep.

Now, I know that you're probably thinking that it was just a coincidence and maybe it was; but you cannot tell me that God could not have done that either, because scripture says, "with God all things are possible." (Mt. 19:26c (NAS); "For nothing will be impossible with God." Lk 1` :37 (NAS). And even though I asked jokingly; it was still a form of prayer to the Lord. Jesus said, "Ask and it shall be given to you." Lk 13: 9a.

When you pray to God and something like this happens, just look up into the Heavens and say, "Thank you Lord for showing me that you do have a sense of humor."

I hope that you can see the humor in this situation and that you too, can look back at times when maybe you were praying or rather jokingly added something to prayer and all of a sudden, you get your answer. It may not have been as it was with the light going off, but you knew that God just answered your prayer.



May Almighty God keep you and bless you through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever, Amen

A Servant of Christ
Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam
Scott

THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO!

<u><i>YOU SAY</i></u>	<u><i>GOD SAYS</i></u>	<u><i>IT TELLS YOU SO HERE</i></u>
You say: "It's impossible"	God says: "All things are possible"	(Luke 18:27)
You say: "I'm too tired"	God says: "I will give you rest"	(Matthew 11:28-30)
You say: "Nobody really loves me"	God says: "I love you"	(John 3:16 & John 3:34)
You say: "I can't go on"	God says: "My grace is sufficient"	(II Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15)
You say: "I can't figure things out"	God says: "I will direct your steps"	(Proverbs 3:5-6)
You say: "I can't do it"	God says: "You can do all things"	(Philippians 4:13)
You say: "I'm not able"	God says: "I am able"	(II Corinthians 9:8)
You say: "It's not worth it"	God says: "It will be worth it"	(Roman 8:28)
You say: "I can't forgive myself"	God says: "I Forgive you"	(I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1)
You say: "I can't manage"	God says: "I will supply all your needs"	(Philippians 4:19)
You say: "I'm afraid"	God says: "I have not given you a spirit of fear"	(II Timothy 1:7)
You say: "I'm always worried and frustrated"	God says: "Cast all your cares on ME"	(I Peter 5:7)
You say: "I'm not smart enough"	God says: "I give you wisdom"	(I Corinthians 1:30)
You say: "I feel all alone."	God says: "I will never leave you or forsake you."	(Hebrews 13:5)

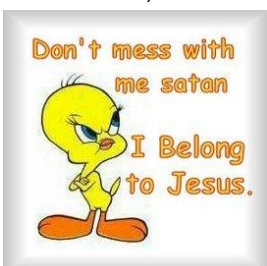
THIS NEWSLETTER IS A FREE GIFT FROM GOD! If this newsletter has been given to you by someone else, write Fishers of Men Prison Ministries, c/o Bethany Church, 5403 North Second Street, Loves Park, IL 61111. Include your name, number and address; and you will be added to the FOM mailing list. Our request is that when you finish reading your newsletter, please pass it on to someone else for their enjoyment and spiritual food. If you enjoy writing and have a desire to share a message with other inmates, we welcome Biblically and faith-based fiction or non-fiction articles. Those may also be mailed to the above address. Tell your family to visit the website at: www.fishersofmenprisonministries.com. If you would like to share your testimony, send it to me at the Bethany address and it will be posted on the web site.

Love in Christ, Momm

CHRISTOPHER'S TESTIMONY

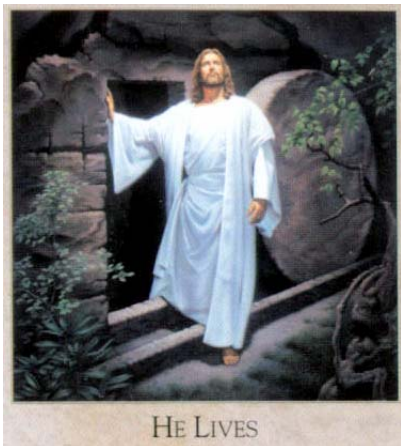
Three years ago I asked Christ into my heart at the Delaware County Jail because I realized that I've wasted 25 years of my life in pursuit of drugs, alcohol, sexual immorality and criminal behavior. My life felt empty and without purpose until I accepted the free grace of Jesus Christ.

Since then, I've attended faithfully all church services and Bible Studies to help me grow in the Lord. When I am released from prison, my goals are that I'm going to continue to work for the Lord and find a church dedicated to missionary outreach programs where I can help spread the word of Jesus Christ to others in need of salvation.



I am currently working on several Bible Study Correspondence Courses because I want to follow Jesus' commandment to go out into all the world preaching the gospel to all people. Please pray that I will be able to continue to bring glory to Christ through my work for Him in the world. *God Bless You! Christopher*

God's Name Manifested



How can a name be manifested? For a long time I thought about Jesus' statement in John 17:6a, "I have manifested your name to the men whom you have given me out of the world." The word manifested also means, "revealed." In my search for an answer, I turned to the Lexical aids in the New Testament and found the word "manifested" GK. Phaneróō >> to make manifest; make known, show, to reveal, remove a lid; therefore, in this sense it means to denote the act of divine revelation. (Jn. 17:6) However, I was still not fully clear about the significance of the meaning of Jesus' statement, "I have manifested your name." In my search for an answer, He (the Father) took me to Exodus 33:18-19... "And He (Moses) said, "Please, show me your glory." "Then He (the Lord) said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." As my search for even a clearer understanding continued,

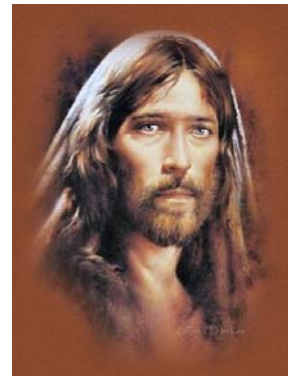
He showed me even more of how the nature of God is revealed in Exodus 34:5-7... "Then the Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him (Moses) there, and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long suffering and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generations."

Finally, I got it! Jesus is the manifestation of the Father's mercy, grace, longsuffering, goodness, truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression and sin. Also, it is because of Jesus substitutionary death the Father is able to forgive the guilty. Jesus Christ gave Himself as a substitute in death in order to clear the guilty. Now I have even a simple Biblical formula describing the manifestation of His name. His name is revealed via His attributes and His attributes reveal His character. Name >> Attributes >> Character >> Nature.

Now I know that in Hebrew literature (or) culture, name is sometimes used to signify the collected attributes or characteristics of the object (or) person named. This is particularly the case with the divine name as described in Exodus 34:5-7; John 17:6 where name embraces the whole divine nature revealed by the son. The expression, "name of God" indicates the entire and ministration of God, by which He reveals Himself and His attributes to men; the glory and power of God displayed in nature... "O Lord, our Lord how excellent is your name in all the earth, which has set your glory above the Heavens!" Ps. 8:1

So when our Lord Jesus Christ came to earth, he was declaring/manifesting the nature and glory of God. "And I have declared to them your name, and I will declare it, that the love with which you loved me may be in them, and I in them." Jn. 17:26. It is a wonderful thing to know that Jesus (Yahweh or Jehovah) is salvation. Because when I need mercy, He is merciful; when I need grace, He is graceful, when I am searching for truth, He is the truth. He is the Great "I Am." No wonder... "The word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the Glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14

In the New Testament, the expression, "the name of Christ" refers to all that Jesus is to men. To believe in His name as stipulated in Acts 4:12... "Nor is there salvation in any other for there is no other name under Heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Jesus ... "being the brightness of His (God's) glory and the express image of His person, ..." Heb. 1:3a; "He is the image of the invisible God, ..." Col. 1:15a. The blood that was offered for our "redemption" (setting free) was not blood of man alone, for it would have had finite and limited worth, but it was the blood of the eternal God in His son who had become flesh. It was blood of infinite value. If anyone reading this article is not saved and does not know true mercy, grace, longsuffering, goodness, truth, forgiveness, etc., then try surrendering your life to Jesus. He is the answer... I know!!! "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity." 2 Timothy 2:19c NKJV



Christbondservant - Preacher

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