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Salvation pt. 5

We're in the middle of a study having to do with salvation. I was out of town last week, so I want to review a bit of what we've said so far to get us all back on the same page.

Salvation is Jesus Christ living in you. Salvation is you living in and by Christ. Christ in you. You in Christ. Both are true and real. Jesus says "I am in the Father, you are in Me, and I am in you.". He is in you as new Life. You are in Him as the place and person and reality of your residence. One has to do more with new life. The other has to do with new creation. I'll leave that alone for now...

But salvation is all that is real, and spirit, and truth, and now in Christ. Salvation is not just getting sins forgiven. Salvation is not just going to heaven. Salvation is not just getting spiritual gifts. Salvation involves all three of those things (if properly understood), but those are simply three of an infinite number of things that Christ Himself is made unto you.

But salvation is the full and complete work of God in Christ through death, burial, and resurrection, now being given to you in the Person of Resurrection. Look, I'm not just trying to come up with clever sentences. I'm trying to put words to something that is spiritual and words cannot touch it. I'm trying to give the Spirit something to work with in our souls this morning. Something He can use.

Salvation is all that is true of Christ, now true of you because He is your life. Not because you became Jesus. But because Jesus, the only begotten of the Father, lives in you as life. Is Christ dead to sin? Well then, in Him, you are too. The New Testament will tell you so time and again. Is Christ alive unto God? So are you in Him. Is Christ righteous? Well, "you are the righteousness of God in Him". Is Christ raised up and seated in the heavens? "You were made alive together, raised together, and seated together with Christ Jesus in the heavens".

Do you see what I'm saying. I'm saying again that salvation is not some thing or some status or some reward that Jesus gives you. Salvation is Jesus Himself being given to you. And all that He is... is made unto you. And so He is your reward. He is your crown. He is your inheritance.

If you let the Spirit of God show you salvation, He's going to show you Christ. He's not going to show you a mansion in the clouds, a golden goose, or a spiritual Disney Land. He's going to do what Jesus said he would do "He's going to take that which is Christ's and reveal it unto you". He's going to "guide you into all truth".

And so what we're trying to do here is back up and look afresh at all that salvation is whether we realized it or not. And that is exactly the problem. We didn't realize what it was. Of course we didn't. How could you comprehend all of Christ at new birth? But lets just not make the mistake of thinking our initial view of salvation is all that there is, or all that we can know on the earth.

Although it is true that natural eye cannot see it, natural hand cannot touch it, and natural minds cannot perceive it...the Spirit of God does reveal it. And it is known as spirit by spirit. And what is spirit and truth can become the reality of your soul regardless of whether natural senses perceive anything at all.

But we might do well just to pause here for a minute. It would be good just to say again that what we have come to is not natural. Our salvation is not natural. It is not material. It is not corruptible. Every Christian probably heartily agrees to that as a doctrine, but then they often go right on looking for it in the earth. How is this salvation benefiting me? Where are the blessings? Where are the promises? I don't see them! My car just broke down, my bank account is empty, my husband is mean, and my knee hurts. God, where are you?

Well Paul will tell you that the blessings are spiritual and they're in Christ Jesus.

Eph 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ;

Paul will tell you where the promises are as well.

2Co 1:20 For all the promises of God **in Him** *are* yes, and **in Him** Amen, to the glory of God by us.

And this really isn't off our topic for this morning, because I really just wanted to take another whack at helping us see that salvation means a whole new realm, a whole new creation in which to dwell. One that is spirit. One in which the old creation is not found.

If you'll look again at our simple diagram from last time...we have the natural types and shadows on one side (light, water, door, priesthood, etc) and the spiritual reality in Christ on the other. In Christ we don't have natural water, but we have all that natural water spoke of. In Christ we don't have natural light, but we have all that natural light spoke of. In Christ we don't have blood of goats, but we have all that blood of goats spoke of.

Everything of the New Covenant is spiritual and eternal. Everything of the letter is not fulfilled in letter, but is fulfilled in spirit. Everything that is corruptible and material is not fulfilled in a better version of corruptible and material, but is fulfilled in and as spirit.

You see, the Jews of Christ's day really struggled with this. They could not make the transition from corruptible to incorruptible, they could not come from the old to the new, from earth to the heavens. And frankly, neither can we.

Remember Jesus at the well with the woman. "Jesus" she says "is it this mountain or that one? Is it this religion or that one? Do we go here? Do we go there? Do I eat this, do I touch that?" Jesus says "No, sweetheart...from now on its spirit and truth". The day has come when anybody that wants to worship God must do so in spirit and truth.

Can you see what Jesus just did with that statement? I was listening to a teaching this week on this verse and it struck me so hard. Do you see what He just did? In

one statement he just dismissed all religion of his day...whether it was that which was established by God to point to him (Judaism) or that which was the creation of man's imagination (the religion of the Samaritans). And in that one statement he also dismissed the entire realm in which all religion was known.

Can you see that? We've come from true things, true testimony in Judaism to the Person of Truth. We've come to truth. And we've come from natural things...created by God to declare Him, testify to Him...we've come from natural things to spirit. We've come from the natural and the testimony to spirit and truth. We've come from mountains like Sinai to the spiritual reality of Mt. Zion.

Hebrews says "Behold you have come to Mt. Zion". Exodus 15 prophesies this very thing. It was always declared to be this way.

Exo 15:17 You shall bring them and plant them in the mountain of Your inheritance, the place, O LORD, You have made for You to dwell in; the Sanctuary, O LORD, *which* Your hands have established.

Are you going to suggest that this is a natural mountain? A natural sanctuary. Jesus knew better. Jesus knows that even this verse, this planting, this mountain, this sanctuary are that which natural planting, natural mountains, and natural sanctuaries had always spoken of. "which Your hands have established".

So in one sentence he dismisses the shadows, dismisses religion, dismisses the old creation. **How could a man in one sentence dismiss all religion and all of the old creation? Because He is the ONE of which they both spoke!** My God, it sounds like the book of Isaiah "and when He will come He shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth and shatter the nations like a clay pot". It sounds like Hebrews "Behold I come to do your will O God, I take away the first (pointing to left) and establish the second (pointing to right)".

And then he says "here is the only way that anyone can ever worship God". God is spirit, and now all who worship Him must worship in spirit in truth". Doesn't that make you want to fall on your face and say "Spirit of God, show me the spirit and truth of the matter. Show me the substance. Deliver me from the shadow." Doesn't it make you want to say with Paul in Galatians

Gal 4:9 But now, knowing God, but rather are known by God, how do you turn again to the weak and worthless elements of the world (pointing to left) to which you again desire to slave anew? **10** You observe days and months and times and years. **11** I fear *for* you, lest somehow I have labored among you in vain.

They're whole religion, the entire establishment of Judaism by God, was the testimony in the earth of the spiritual kingdom that was coming in the messiah. But when He came, the one in whom was the kingdom, the one in whom was the life, the light, the drink, the bread, the door, the vine.... But when He came they did not recognize him simply because he pointed to all of it and said "I Am". Because he pointed to all of it and said "its now spirit and truth", because he pointed to all of it and said "my kingdom is not of this world". Because he said "the flesh profits nothing" because he said "flesh gives birth to flesh, but spirit gives birth to spirit". They didn't recognize Him.

Do we recognize him?

- 1Co 2:14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.
- 1 Cor 2:12 "But the Spirit has been given so that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God"
- 1 Cor 2:10 "But the Spirit does reveal them".
- Col 1:26 the mystery which had been hidden from ages and from generations (pointing to left...hidden in types and shadows), but now has been revealed to His saints.

I'm telling you that this salvation is spiritual and eternal. But I'm also telling you that you are spiritual. I'm telling you that this salvation is heavenly. But I'm also telling you that "you are raised up and seated with Christ in the heavens". I'm telling you that this salvation not of the old, but is in fact the new. But I'm also telling you that "if any man is in Christ Jesus old things have passed away, behold the new has come".

I'm not saying that what is spiritual has no implications in the natural. But I am saying that the ways that the spiritual impacts the natural is temporal. The Lord might heal your foot, but your body is still going to die. The Lord might give you a house, but one day somebody will tear it down and put up a Home Depot.

Its not that we don't appreciate the ways in which the natural is effected by that which is eternal and spiritual in Christ. Its just that that is not where we find life. That is not where we find salvation. The earth is where we manifest the salvation that we have gained in Christ.

I'm just trying to hammer home that this salvation is spiritual and eternal in Christ. We must know it as it is and where it is. We have the same problem the Jews had coming from corruptible to incorruptible, from natural to spirit. Why? Because we want it to be natural. We want it to be natural because we want to remain natural. That's sad, but true. We want it to be for us and in the natural. And it is for Him, and in spirit and truth. And any true and clear view of reality will make you rejoice that it is.

But our concepts of the eternal are often not much more than the natural on steroids. You know, like a never ending Christmas morning. You see those bumper stickers that say "where will you spend eternity?"...and the thought behind that is often that eternal life is a bunch of years or minutes. But eternal life is Christ, and He is in me now. And I am in Him. And I will spend eternity where I am, only at some particular point along the way I will drop off my earthen vessel back into the ground from which I borrowed it in the first place. And He will forever be to me, even as He is now, eternal life.

Our existence is no longer carnal, natural, material. I know that our vessel is. But our existence is not. We have such a problem leaving behind what is behind.

Paul talks about this in Colossians chapter 2. Listen to him.

Col 2:20 If then you died with Christ from the elements of the world (pointing to left), why, as *though* living in *the* world, are you subject to *its* ordinances: 2:21 touch not, taste not, handle not; 22 which things are all for corruption in the using, and are according to the commands and doctrines of men?

1 Corinthians 6:13 – “food is for the stomach and the stomach for food, but God will destroy both of them”.

Your salvation has to do with gaining Christ, and forgetting what lies behind. Paul says “this one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind, I lay hold of Him. I lay hold of that which I have already been laid hold of by God”. Forgetting what lies behind what? Behind yesterday? Behind your twenties? Forgetting the naughty things you did in college. Forgetting the Rambo double feature you watched yesterday? Forgetting what? Behind what? **Behind the cross.** Forgetting Egypt, since you live there no longer except in the vanity of your unrenewed mind.

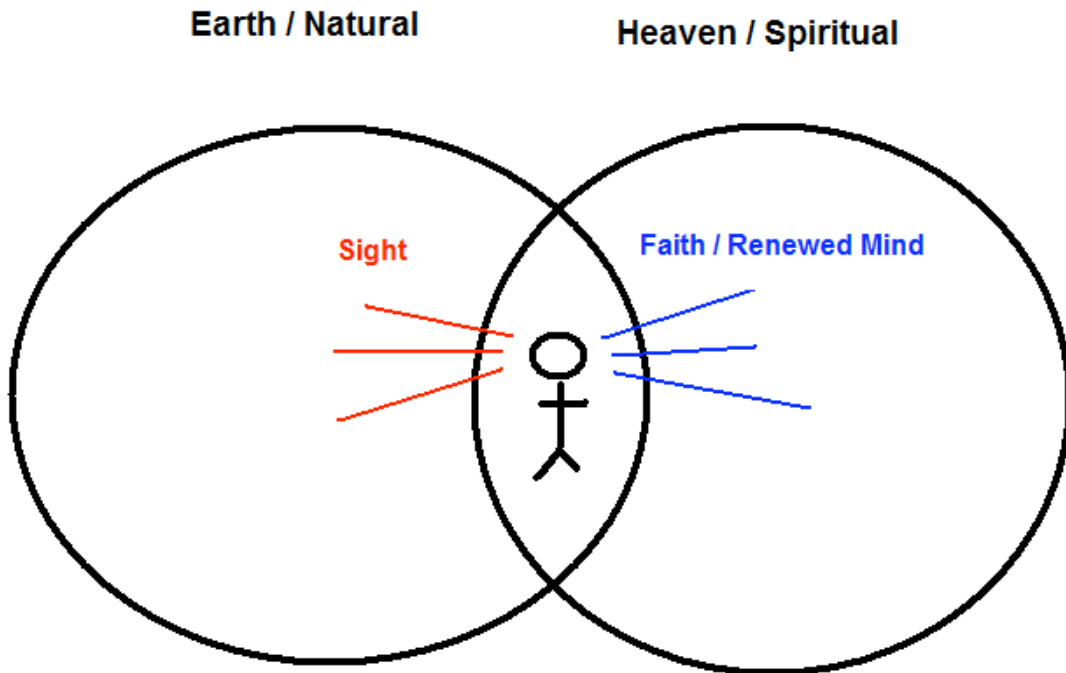
Wasn't that their problem – the ones who left Egypt? They certainly did come out of Egypt. Didn't they. There is no question about that. And yet...look at their heart and you wouldn't know they'd gone anywhere. Isn't that true of so many of us? Out of sin and death, out of the old creation...and yet look at our hearts?

They longed to go back to Egypt. They fixed their mind on Egypt things. They dreamt of garlic and onions and meat pots. They even build an Egyptian God when Moses was on a retreat up the mountain. Yes, they had left Egypt...but they hadn't forgotten what lies behind.

And part of the problem is this vessel in which we have the treasure. It is a vessel that is attached and involved with the realm that is not eternal. It is a vessel that has senses that observe a realm that is not found in Christ. And yet, what is in that vessel is treasure that is entirely not of this realm, nor connected to it in any way (other than the vessel).

And the vessel can hinder your knowing and experience of the treasure, and the realm of treasure, if it continues to be all that you know.

Let me draw another diagram.



It is true that as long as you have a body you will be attached to a natural creation. And natural senses observe natural things. But so many Christians see themselves entirely on the left here waiting to go to the right when their body passes away.

But a born again Christian has truly come to Mt. Zion, to the spirit and truth, to the heavens, to the spiritual substance and reality of life in Christ. The renewed mind sees spiritually, sees the heavens. Faith sees a new creation. Even as Jesus told Nathaniel... "you are going to see the heavens opened" You are going to see the veil rent. Oh Lord, this is so wonderful.

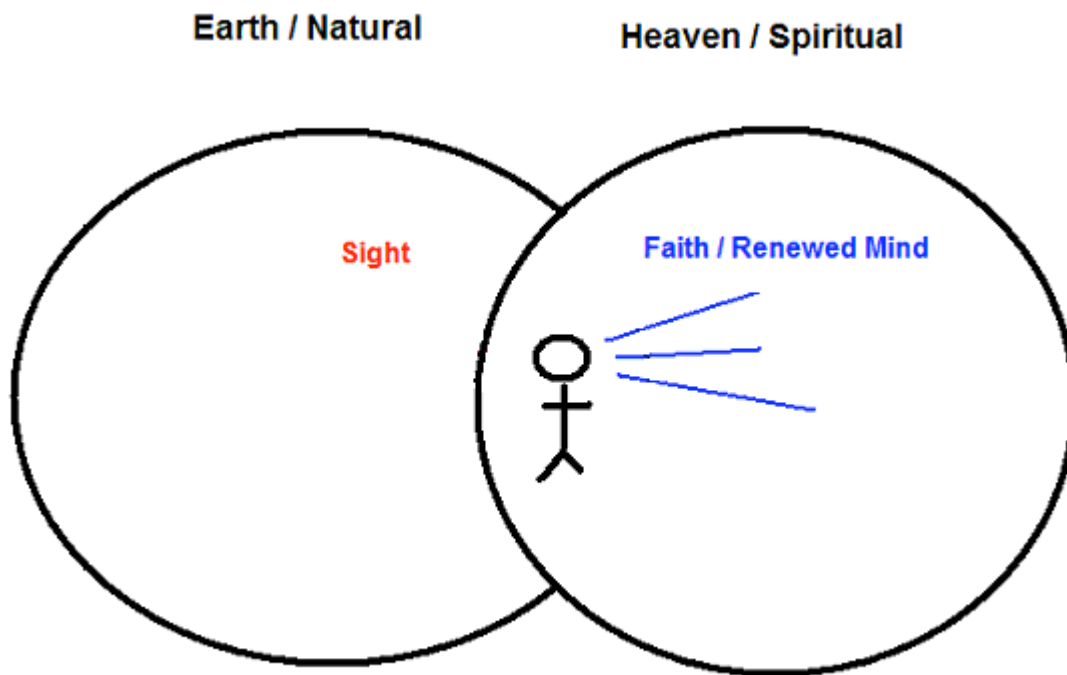
A born again person is born of Zion. Doesn't Scripture say this. "This one has been born of Zion". Jesus says "they" (speaking of his disciples on the earth) "are not of the earth, even as I am not of the earth". "Now Father, sanctify, that is, set them apart, in the truth".

Colossians 1:13 says "*For He* has delivered us from the power of darkness and has translated *us* into the kingdom of His dear Son;"

Translated. That is a reality. And the tense of that verb will tell you that it is finished. The tense of that verb "has translated" will tell you where Paul understood himself to be. This wasn't a fairy-tale imagination of Paul. This wasn't "I like to close my eyes and picture myself at Cedar Point".

And being there, the Spirit can reveal where we are. Having given us the land we can walk the length and breadth of it. Having seen it by the Spirit, Paul can declare to you "but now in Christ".

And when your body dies, it is just the erasing of this line for those who are "now in Christ".



But...long before that happens, we are suppose to have learned where we are. Long before the body dies we are supposed to have been putting away what has been put away by God. Long before that we are supposed to be able to begin to say with Paul "I have been crucified to the entire world". A world that is only natural, and yet spoke of spiritual and eternal.

And that's what the cross will work in your heart. The natural and temporal only ever spoke of the spiritual and eternal. That is the very reason for its creation. Do you think that God made humans and then said..."oh boy, I better make something for them to drink". "wow, they're hungry...I didn't think of that... I better make some food". "Uh, oh...they can't see, I better make some light". Are you kidding me. He established a natural man that was in need of these natural things in order to testify to a spiritual man who would find all of these things to be His Son. A Son that is true drink. A Son that is true food. A Son that is the Light of the world.

The only reason that He created your natural body and caused it to thirst, and made it to drink, is that He would, at the fullness of time, raise up a spiritual body together with His Son and cause it to thirst and make it to drink of the water of life.

Isa 55:1 Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who *has* no money, come, buy and eat. Yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
2 Why do you spend silver for *what is* not bread? and your labor for *what* never satisfies? Listen carefully to Me, and eat *what is* good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.

3 Bow down your ear, and come to Me; hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.

Well, its that covenant that we will begin talking about next week.