

"For a little while" sounds very much like what is spoken of in **Isaiah 54:7** when God, speaking of Jesus said, **"For a small moment I have forsaken you..."**.

Remember when Jesus cried out on the cross, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"? God had to turn His back on Jesus at that moment and would not turn back to Him to gather Him in great mercy until He had paid the full demand of God's judgment for our sin. That took three days and nights in the belly of the earth to accomplish.

When God raised Him from the dead and crowned Him with glory and honor, you and I were raised up together with Him and we now can live because He lives, never again to be touched by death!

Next week we will look at the death of the cross in greater detail and see what a tremendous price was paid for our redemption.

Scripture Meditation for this Week:

Christ took me to the cross with Him, and I died there with Him. It is no longer I that live. Christ is living in me. It is true that I am still living in the flesh. But I live now by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave His life to save me. **Galatians 2:20, Frank C. Laubach's translation of the New Testament**

We will spend eternity searching out the wonders of all that God did for us when He sent Jesus to Calvary on our behalf. I challenge you to spend a portion of your Bible study time searching out the riches of Christ's work which He wrought for us between the cross and the Throne! You can never exhaust the rich and powerful truth that is revealed in the Finished Work of Christ! God bless you throughout this week and remember, Jesus is Lord! Pastor Bill Dennington

Good News... You're Redeemed! Part 6

Our redemption was secured by what Jesus did in the garden of Gethsemane, on the cross at Calvary, in the belly of this earth in hell; and what He is doing even at this present moment as the resurrected Lord of glory. He paid the price for our redemption: spirit, soul, body, financially, socially and materially.

Adam united with the devil spiritually in the garden of Eden and began to experience the effects of the law of sin and death in every area of his life. His sin opened the door for Satan to flood into mankind everything which steals, kills and destroys the perfect will of God for man. **Disobedience opened the door, obedience would shut it.**

1 Corinthians 15:45 says Jesus is the last Adam. He and Adam were identical but for one thing. Jesus' spirit was not a created spirit. His spirit had always been with the Father. He was God, the Son. The Word, which according to **John 1:1** was eternal, had always been with God and in fact was God. The Word, which fully expressed all that God is, had become a man. **The Word became a man and lived in this earth as a man!**

God did not come to this earth as a man for Himself. He did not need redemption. We did. He came here for us and on our behalf.

Two very powerful scriptures in **Hebrews** you need to look at to see how God joined Himself to man in this redemptive process. **Hebrews 2:10-11**, from Goodspeed's translation:

- 10. For it was appropriate that He who is the great First Cause of the universe should, in guiding His many children to His glorious salvation, **make their leader in it fully qualified through what He suffered.**
- 11. For both He who purifies them and they who are purified spring from one source. **That is why He is not ashamed to call them brothers...**

Hebrews 2:14-15 from the Basic English Bible:

- 14. And because the children are flesh and blood, **He took a body Himself and became like them;** so that by His death He might put an end to him who had the power of death, that is to say, the Evil One;
- 15. And let those who all their lives were in chains because of their fear of death, go free.

When Jesus was born in the manger in Bethlehem, He forever united God with mankind. The Second-Person of the Godhead had become a man with a flesh and blood body! And, from that point on He would forever be the union of God and man, being all God and all man. Look at **1 Timothy 3:16**. **"God was manifest in the flesh"** is a undeniable reference to God's involvement with the race of man.

Why did God do this? Was it just to prove He could? Was it just to "show-off" in this earth for a while and then float off the face of the earth, leaving us wondering and marveling; or did God have a purpose and a plan in mind by coming into this earth as a man? Remember, God is love! He is not selfish, nor is He motivated out of any selfish desires or feelings. What does the Word say?

The Bible calls the revelation of redemption a "mystery". Something which God had kept secret from before the earth was even created. **He knew what would be needed to redeem us, even before He created us and He still went ahead and did it!** Glory be to God!

God knew what was required to bring back man into full fellowship with Himself. It would mean entering into the realm of sin and death; defeating sin and conquering death and doing it as a man. It would not accomplish the desired results if God did it as God, He did not need to gain victory over sin and death for Himself.

Philippians 2:8 from Weymouth's translation:

- 8. And being recognized as truly human, He humbled Himself and even stooped to die; yes, to die on a cross.

The nature of man changed in the garden from the nature of a created spirit, created in the image and likeness of God; to being the nature of a fallen angel, spiritually dead and dark, cut-off from the life and glory of God. **Hebrews 2:7** from Conybeare's translation tells us:

- 7. **For a little while, You have made Him lower than the angels;** You have crowned Him with glory and honour...

"For a little while, You have made Him lower than the angels" refers to Jesus' descent into hell having been made **sin and becoming one with us in our union with and subjection to Satan, a fallen angel.** Prior to His going to the cross, during His trial, Jesus stated He could call for more than twelve legions of angels to deliver Him. They were, at that time still under His authority.