

August 18, 2019

Union with Christ

Luke 24:50-51

- The Son of God assumed our humanity (John 1:14) to redeem (2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13) us to God. Christ accomplished our redemption on the basis of his righteous obedience to the Father's will.

John 8:29 I always do the things that are pleasing to [the Father].

- As a result, Jesus reclaimed God's original intention in his people—to *image* God's kingly authority to rule over and subdue the earth.
- In obeying as God's representative ruler, Adam was in effect declaring that "the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof" (Ps. 24:1).
- In obeying God, Adam was acknowledging and applying God's rule over his creation (Luke 7:6-8).
- But Adam disobeyed (Gen. 3:6). Adam submitted himself and his right to be the ruler of this world to Satan who then became "the god of this world" (2 Cor. 4:4).
- Therefore, in order to reclaim God's rule over his world, the Son of God assumed our humanity in obedience to the Father's will, even obedience unto death on the cross (Phil. 2:8).

- As a result, Jesus destroyed the works of the devil (1 John 3:8) by:
 - Dethroning Satan (John 12:31)
 - Disarming Satan of the weapon of death (Col. 2:14-15; Heb. 2:14)
 - Stripping Satan of his rule

The Ministry of the Divine Prophet

- The Holy Spirit brings us into union with Christ.

- The promise Jesus made to his disciples:

***John 14:16-17** ...I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth...*

***John 15:26** ...I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, Who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness about Me...*

***Luke 24:49** ...behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high...*

- In giving the Holy Spirit to us, Christ is inaugurating God's eternal purpose in us, and that purpose is realized in our union with Christ.

- Every blessing that God gives us is the result of our eternal union with Christ.

Eph. 1:3-5 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as [God] chose us in [Jesus Christ] before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before [God]. In love 5 [God] predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of [God's eternal] will...*

- Eph 1: 7& 11: the result of our union with Christ:
 - v. 7 In [union with Christ] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses...
 - v. 11 In [union with Christ] we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of [God] Who works all things according to the counsel of His will...
- In our union with Christ, we inherit all that Christ Himself has inherited as the obedient Son (Ps. 2:7-8).
- In our union with Christ, the Spirit brings us into fellowship with the Father on the basis of Christ's own fellowship with God (2 Peter 1:4). The Holy Spirit pours into our hearts the very love that the Father has for the Son (Rom. 5:5; John 14:21,21; 17:26).

1 Peter 1:3-5 *According to his great mercy, [God] has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith [the faith that saves is the SAME faith that guards to the end] for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time...*

- What is the source of God's power to guard us through faith? The Holy Spirit:

Eph 1:13-14 ... *[you who are in union with Christ] were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit [Luke 24:49], 14 Who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it...*

- The strength of our union with Christ:

John 6:39 *And this is the will of Him Who sent Me, that I shall lose none of all that He has given Me, but raise them up at the last day...*

Rom. 8:28-30 *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose 29 for those whom [God] foreknew [Eph. 1:4] He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that [Christ] he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom [God] predestined [Eph. 1:5] He also called, and those whom He called He also justified, and those whom He justified He also glorified*