

Identity Theft: The First, Favorite, and Fatal scheme of Satan

7/8/18

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Please open your bibles to 2 Cor. 10...

I have 2 privileged opportunities in this series to share with you. Today, will be on the power of the gospel in Spiritual Warfare, and on July 29th we will talk about Submission, Deliverance processes, ministry, and our mindset toward it.

Aron, thank you for this opportunity. I feel that today is more about sharing my testimony than teaching and preaching.

Many have observed a number of wonderful changes in my life and family as God has been graciously delivering us in many ways from the schemes of the enemy. This process certainly isn't complete, but what I hope to convey today is HOPE, is that I've learned that spiritual warfare is first, and foremost, the enemy seeking to scheme and deceive me out of my new identity in Christ as revealed through the true gospel.

So, The title of today's message is **Identity Theft: The First, Favorite, and Fatal scheme of Satan**

Identity theft in the world is about stealing your money, but the identity theft of Satan is about stealing, killing and destroying our witness of sonship and our inheritance in Christ.

But, we need to understand something very important from the start – I shared this with my wife and she said I needed to make sure I **put this on the screen:**

Spiritual warfare must not be so much about focusing on, battling, and defeating Satan, or demons, Jesus already did that for us. Our primary spiritual warfare is to STOP fighting, resisting, and disqualifying ourselves from the Father's love

Our identity in Christ as his dearly loved children is sourced from knowing and experiencing the Father's love.

Knowing about Satan, deliverance, and having authority over demons isn't what sets us free, it's the truth of our Heavenly Father's unchanging, unfathomable, unshakeable love revealed in the gospel of Jesus Christ that delivers us, and sets us free.

Let's pray now and believe God for that

I. Understanding The War Against the Gospel and our Identity

Let's briefly address Satan's schemes, their focus, and the weapons of our warfare

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. 5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ," 2 Cor. 10:3-5

:3 - Paul is seeking to defend the gospel he preaches and his authority of ministry. He frames out the battle and the war we fight...

A. The War we fight

1. The War we fight as believers is a spiritual one, not in the flesh

2. Satan is the Enemy we battle, not people (Spouse, relative, friends, or foes)

a. In Chapter 11:3 Paul clearly identifies Satan as the deceiver responsible for the cunning effort to subvert the gospel and his authority in Corinth.

:3 "But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ..."

b. In vs.14 of the same chapter, Although Paul references those who oppose him as false apostles masquerading as their leaders, He identifies Satan himself at work... vs.

14. "And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an

angel of light.” 2 Cor. 11:14

- c. Paul is saying, in the battle against schemes we face, Satan doesn't come scheming us in overt, evil sounding ways, he will appear reasonable, compelling, and plausible...that's what makes his schemes so dangerous.
 - i. He will sound like you, he will mimic your thoughts. As he prefers to remain in the dark while he spins you out with lies, schemes, and cunning deceptions we accept because they seem so reasonable, compelling, and plausible in our minds.
3. The Nature of the War we fight: Schemes, Designs, Devices from Satan
- a. The word “schemes” I'm using comes from Paul's own use of the term in 2 Cor. 2:10-11 in the NIV and NASB versions...In the ESV, it uses the word “designs”...the Greek word is actually, purpose, or “devices.” Personally, I find the word ‘schemes’ best to understand the intricate web of deceit used by the enemy daily
 - b. The Schemes are against our new identity in our thoughts
 - i. As Paul is challenging the Corinthians in these 2 chapters, he reveals a number of the schemes of Satan to steal what he calls in 11:3 our “*sincere and pure devotion to Christ*” – this is our new identity.
 - ii. This is who you are in Christ - a new creation made so by the indwelling Holy Spirit in us as born again believers. Our spirit is resurrected with Christ, seated in heavenly places, and is in every way, sanctified and made perfect in Him.

- iii. Beneath all the sense of failure, guilt, and shame, the Holy Spirit has made you a new creation and put in you a sincere and pure devotion to Christ, that we need to own as more real and true than the lies that we aren't any different and that our "old man" is alive and well.
- iv. 11:3 identifies where the scheme of Satan attacks: our "thoughts" in our soul, which includes our mind, will, and emotions, essentially, the heart of our unsanctified being that is still in need of renewal and purification to convince us that our new identity is a lie, we are no different, and we aren't worthy of the Father's love.

B. The Weapons We Use are not of the flesh

:4 - Paul goes on to reference the weapons of the war having divine power...

1. The Word of God – Hebrews 4:12

- a. Hebrews 4:12 says, For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
- b. Eph. 6 calls it the sword of the Spirit, the only offensive weapon. Jesus wielded the sword to combat Satan in the wilderness, we cannot improve on that

2. The Armor of God

- a. Eph. 6. - Aron referenced the armor of God last week in Ephesians 6 and I would commend his message to fully understand what we have been given in those weapons

3. The Gospel Truth – Rev. 12:11

- a. And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. - Revelation 12:11
- b. Simply put, all the weapons of our warfare while distinct are all God's truth revealed in the gospel. The gospel reveals the Truth about Himself and who he is, who Christ is and what He did for us. It contains the Truth about us, and who we are, and Truth about the enemy and who he is. The gospel reveals identity...God's, Ours, and Satan's. And we must wield the truth of the gospel like a weapon to pull down, and destroy significant schemes, or different types of lies, of the enemy in our minds.

C. The Schemes: Lies the Enemy Uses

NOTE: There are 6 schemes the enemy was using here in Corinth – 3 Paul relates to the people's mindset in Chapter 10, and 3 he relates specifically to Satan scheming to destroy the gospel he preached in Chapter 11, and these are exactly what uses in our lives, but as you will see, they are all actually just 1 big scheme...

10:4b-5 Schemes are lies he uses to open access points in our mind, that influence our will and emotions. He uses the lies we accept, and the degree to which we believe them, to oppress and torment us.

1. Strongholds - :4

- a. The greek word here is "fortresses."
- b. These are longstanding lies we believe and construct about ourselves, others, and God, usually arising from shame of our past, abuse of ourselves, or from others, and wrong perceptions about God

2. Arguments, (speculations) - :5

- a. These are lies that openly challenge the truth and character of God in our hearts.
- b. He encourages us to speculate and thus draw wrong conclusions about things that aren't true about God's nature, love, and faithfulness. Very much like the story of Job, we must be careful how we speak of God in our hearts.

3. Every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God - :5

- a. The enemy will amplify our sinful pride, self-sufficiency, self-reliance, self-promotion, and selfish ambition, as well as our negative emotions, our self-pity, self-hatred, and self-depressive attitudes to draw us into lofty opinions that challenge God's clear truth about us as stated in the gospel and in His Word.
 - i. Any opinion of yourself that you hold more highly, or lowly, than you ought, watch out...it's a lofty opinion.

4. :5 - We must learn to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ through the filter of our understanding of the gospel. But, here's the problem...the gospel in us is under attack

II. Our Identity is in Peril Through "A Different Gospel": The Converging Schemes of the Enemy

Paul references that not only were the minds of the Corinthians being infected by the first 3 venomous schemes of strongholds, arguments, and lofty opinions in the minds in Chapter 10, but the gospel antidote he preached to counter those schemes in 10 was also being schemed in Chapter 11:4...

A. How does Satan scheme our understanding of the Gospel?

1. He Proclaims Another Jesus

a. Paul shares how in 2 Cor. 11:4 *For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed,*

i. He reveals a Jesus that isn't Jesus

ii. The Performance Jesus that whispers your not doing enough

iii. The irritated Jesus who is disappointed in your lack of faith

iv. The Self-pity Jesus hurt by your sin and unfaithfulness

v. The frustrated Jesus who expects your sin to be gone by now

vi. The disappointed Jesus who is let down by your slow progress

vii. The silent Jesus giving the silent treatment to teach you a lesson

viii. The harsh Jesus who whispers his anger at your disobedience

ix. The legalistic Jesus who shames your impurity

x. Satan doesn't care what lie you believe about Jesus, just that you do. The Holy Spirit wants to reveal the True Jesus to you through the gospel.

2. He gets us to Receive a different spirit

a. :4 -...*or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received,*

i. This is demonic influence of many kinds, allowed in through sinful actions, attitudes, or responses to situations. Unforgiveness, pride, anger, bitterness,

hatred, are all open doors to different spirits than the one we received. They constantly test for weaknesses...

- ii. But, understand demons will appear reasonable, compelling, and plausible, presenting as angels of light. Their condemnation will be subtle, their shame will be reasonable to us. Their disqualification through making us feel unworthy will make sense to our carnal minds.

3. He Gets us to accept A Different Gospel

a. :4 - ...or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted,

- i. Or, if you believe a different gospel than the one you accepted. This is where the enemy works to add performance clauses, insecurities, and doubts in our hearts about the gospel, the love of the Father, and our identity

- ii. **This last point – a “Different Gospel” encapsulates the entirety of the other 5 schemes – all the strongholds, arguments, lofty things, another Jesus, and different spirits converge into a “different” gospel that we must discern and dismiss**

4. Here's the Issue. We Accept and Believe the lie

a. Paul's next statement is the indictment on everything...

b. :4 - you put up with it readily enough.” 2 Cor. 11:3-4

- i. We allow it. We open the door, welcome in the lie, and now we are in a battle that can last years if we allow it.
- ii. We can, and we must, learn to shorten the battles we face through the gospel. Satan's Schemed Seasons that once took years for me to overcome, now took months, then they took weeks, then days, then a few hours, then minutes, and finally, as God rightly applied my understanding of the gospel I can crush the lies and schemes in seconds.
- iii. This is the deliverance me and my family have been growing in. We encounter conflict, we stop, consider the scheme, apply the gospel by taking the thoughts captive to Christ, and walk away free. It doesn't mean we don't fail, we have just seen the emotional floor rising...we don't tank in depression, anxiety, and shame as we used to...
- iv. How? We learned that spiritual warfare is to shorten the battles through the love of the Father expressed in the true gospel of Jesus

III. Our Identity and Victory in Spiritual Warfare through the True Gospel

Why did "readily put up with" the schemes? Because, I just didn't understand the gospel. I accepted a "different gospel."

The more I experience the gospel and love of the Father penetrated my heart, the battles are getting shorter.

I knew the facts of the gospel that saved me, Jesus died for my sin and rose again, but I hadn't experienced the gospel.

There was a significant shift in my understanding of the gospel that occurred by the Holy Spirit – While the gospel is for me, it wasn't about me.

And literally all at once, the truth drained my shame, condemnation, and disqualification away once and for all out my life. I know it sounds too good to be true...

So, with my remaining time, let me take you on a walk, a walk I trust the Holy Spirit will unpack for you, as He is for me in new ways every day...I may use my outside voice a bit as I share, please be patient as this story affects me deeply every time I share it...I hope it affects you.

Turn to John 17 – now I will be bouncing through a number of verses most will be on the screen, but if not, I will just read them...just let the story wash over you...

THE MEETING

In eternity past, before the angels, before Satan, before the fall, before everything...there was a meeting of the Godhead. The Father 'understanding the times and seasons' looked down through history and saw the goodness of His creation and its corruption at the hands of one He created.

This created a situation that could not be resolved easily. His justice would demand satisfaction, He could not show the mercy He wished to show because His justice against sin could not be ignored. God cannot deny Himself.

We were not present, we were not the focus...the focus was the desire of God to reveal Himself and His glory to all he would create in the way He did to Moses in Ex 34... *The Lord, the Lord, the gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.*

He wanted to be known as the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, as the God of Darin, Aron, Debi, and Lesli.

UNSATISFIED JUSTICE, PENT UP MERCY AND THE LOVE OF THE SON FOR THE FATHER

This unsatisfied Justice wasn't a need, or a deficiency, in God. It was an attribute that demonstrates the magnitude of His character. The deeper his requirement of Justice only reflects the equally deep well of mercy He wanted to reveal. But if there was no solution to satisfy His Justice, then creation had no point in even starting, because His mercy could not triumph.

To be able to reveal that mercy would demand a sacrifice that only He would accept.

He was the One offended, so any substitutionary sacrifice could only be deemed worthy, or unworthy by Him...Jesus loving His Father, said something very simple like, "I'll do it. I love you. I will sacrifice myself to satisfy your Justice. Send me to live among them, and I will die for your Justice to be satisfied."

The Father said something like, you know what this means?

Yes, I will have to endure your wrath poured out on all sin...I will do this because of my deep love for you.

We cannot conceive of how The Father was touched by the heart of His Son to do for Him what no one else could do, to vindicate His just righteousness, while freeing Him and the Holy Spirit to reveal His love, His mercy, and His grace to us.

Understand, there weren't other options. The One who would sacrifice had to be deemed worthy, and the only One precious enough to the Father, whose own attributes of love and sacrifice for the Father could go deep enough, was Jesus. No created being could satisfy the wrath of God against it. If God's justice were that weak as to accept a lesser sacrifice, then His other attributes of mercy, grace, and love would be suspect and weak.

Had Jesus not done what He did to step forward, none of what we are doing now would have been possible. There would have been no reason to go forward with the plan...The bible says by Him, Jesus, all things were created, and without Him nothing was made, and all things hold together in Him... why? Because He was willing to do for the Father what no one else could, Therefore, the Father has highly exalted Jesus. It's because of what Jesus agreed to do that everything went forward ...He made all this possible.

But understand, while it was for us as well, it wasn't about us...it was about His love for the Father. Now here comes a scheme of the enemy...

Does this mean he loves you less?

That's an impossible question. The very nature of the sacrifice He was making because He loved the Father was squarely aimed at us receiving and knowing the love and mercy of God from His sacrifice. In loving the Father in sacrificing Himself, He was also loving us before we were ever here.

THE LONG WAIT AND READINESS

For thousands of years up until he was born the Father constantly pointed man to the incomprehensible, impending sacrifice of His Son. Like a gushing Father He could not contain His love for the Son in making everything about Him and what He would do to the people of Israel in the OT.

Jesus and Father knew the moment was coming. A moment that neither of them wanted, but both knew had to be done. Jesus was born and finished His perfect work on earth, but there was still only One reason he came And in John 17...Jesus begins to pour out his heart about it.

John 17:1 When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you,

Spoken what words? – in John 16 he told them that the hour is coming when He will no longer have to ask the Father for anything on their behalf, but they will be able to ask Him...why? V. 27

for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. - John 16:27

Father the hour has come...what hour? The moment when what He came to do had to be done.

As humans we tend to look at what Jesus suffered as a man in the crucifixion process as the unthinkable and therefore we attach the wrath of God to the beating He endured. There is no doubt that a measure of wrath was poured out there, but that wasn't what Jesus was talking about here.

He knew he would suffer unimaginable pain as a man, and that was bad, but that wasn't what troubled Him.

How do I know that? Because throughout the entire crucifixion process, He was silent. He only cried out for the first time, when the unthinkable happened. The unimaginable. When He was separated from His Father. This reaction in Christ, though prophesied, was not rehearsed...It was the horrified response of a Son being painfully ripped from His Father in a manner that had never happened in thousands of years as we understand it. This was beyond His human form to endure. This was the wrath of God.

Working back from that impending truth of this unutterable, unspeakable separation we return to better understand Jesus' state of mind in the events leading up to it.

Jesus, knowing all things had been delivered to him...first, washed his disciple's feet. This isn't the last act of a desperate man. It's the affectionate, loving act of a Savior who deeply cared for these men and he wanted them to know it. There is a principle here we must grasp. Jesus told Peter, if you don't let me wash you, you have no part with me." We must let the Father love us and not resist, or push it away, because by it, we will overcome and be overcome.

He had just completed His meal with the disciples and he has sent Judas on his way, and things were beginning to unfold just as they knew they would. So, before he went to Gethsemane, He turned his face to heaven to pray. This was a prayer so intimate that it made Scripture as one of the only, and certainly the longest, recorded prayers of Jesus. Here is the last wishes of Jesus before He would do what His Father needed Him to do.

The picture we need to understand is that this was not like every other prayer time, this was a moment that Jesus and Father had been dreading for thousands of years. This was the last significant prayer time before He would be arrested. The Father was sitting forward on His throne now, leaning in. Jesus was offering requests that reflected His final wishes before His death for the Father.

The picture here is that the delight of heaven, the joy of Heaven's Father, is speaking, and the Father is listening to His Son's final wishes before He

would fulfill His Father's deepest requirement. This was Jesus the Son submitting to His Father's supremacy over all things as the only One who could offer Himself in a worthy manner, with a Father who dearly loved His most precious Son and anything He wanted would be His.

In his prayer in John 17, Jesus made sure to include his disciples, but he didn't stop there, in verse 20, *"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, - John 17:20*

He remembered us...its and all those who believe on Me through their words...He looked down through history, time, and space, and He saw a small church on the North side of Orlando, Florida in a place called Casselberry, and he included us in His prayer that day.

You get the sense that the Father sitting forward on His throne and leaning into every request said, it's done. It's done. What you are doing for Me is beyond description, and what I will do in them and through them because of what you do today, will be beyond description as well.

The Father was loving the Son, and the Son was loving the Father and the disciples were watching it all play out.

The scene changes now to John 18 where Jesus led them to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane, here we are, thousands of years after the fall in the garden of Eden, heading into another garden, and this time, the second Adam is communing with the Father over what He came to do. Satan would be there again, as would we, this time.

And as He considered what he was about to do, it would be difficult yes, dying on a cross would be brutal, but that's not what made Him hesitate.

Jesus had never paused in doing His Father's will. He joyfully submitted at every moment, but in the garden,

41 And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed,

42 saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."

43 And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him.

44 And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. - Luke 22:41-44

And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." - Matthew 26:39

He hesitated, why? The answer is the same we just saw. The unconscionable, the inconceivable, the unthinkable, the impossible...the Godhead was to be separated. Jesus was willing to do anything for His Father, but the prospect of being separated from His Father, the Father He so dearly and completely loved, caused him to pause, "if there be any other way..."

The Father loved the Son, and the Son loved the Father.

Jesus is in the garden now, laboring under the reality of his impending separation from His father...

I remember being separated from my child in a store for 30 seconds and it horrified me, and if I being evil had that reaction, how much more the delight of heaven languished.

This was inconceivable. It wasn't right. In a moment all that mattered in the universe would converge on this small plot of land, and the war of wars in the spirit would commence.

The crowd came to arrest Jesus, led by Satan himself in the body of Judas...the bible says Satan entered Judas, so he was there himself, betraying the Savior with a kiss, mocking the love of Jesus.

47 While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him,

48 but Jesus said to him, "Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?" - Luke 22:47-48

Angels don't understand love, they are created beings and therefore are not exposed to love as we are. We are children of God, they are created employees of the King.

They don't relate to God as we do. I have people working for me, but they don't know the love I have for my sons and daughters. So it is with Satan, he has no comprehension or appreciation of love, he simply seeks to corrupt it with a kiss of betrayal. And Satan is the epitome of the disgruntled ex-employee who has not respect or regard for God's love or it's outworking.

The Holy Spirit was there...He understood what was going to happen, but before He would allow it, He would send a clear message to all who came...Read the passage

4 Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?"

5 They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.

6 When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. - John 18:4-6

When Jesus declared that He was "I Am," there was no mistaking the declaration that God Himself was standing before them in the flesh, The God who spoke to Moses and said, "I Am" now stood in a dark garden outside Jerusalem and He, the Holy Spirit, could not contain Himself, but yet with phenomenal restraint, He breathed a firm exhale at their impudence and knocked them all to the ground.

Then there were the angels, the angels. They were watching this...Holy Father, this cannot be, they are going to take the delight and joy of your heart, how can we let this stand...let us help Him. Let us go. "Only One may go...as we just read in Luke 22. So, one angel came and strengthened Jesus, but there were more...how do I know this?

Well, Peter, always attempting to outdo the others, upon hearing he would betray Jesus wanted to prove it wasn't true, he saw that they were about to take his Lord and he swung the sword...he had no idea how to use it and he picked the weakest guy he could find.

He says to Peter in Matthew 26:52-53, "*Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. 53 Do you think that I*

cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? - Matthew 26:52-53

“He saw the One that came, but, he also saw that there were 12 legions crowding around the garden that night with their hands vibrating on the hilts of their swords saying, say it Jesus, Say the word, we will come and rescue you, this should not be, you should be home with Father as it was before, let us make this right.

You have the Holy Spirit knocking the crowd over, Angelic legions ringing the garden with hands on the hilts of their swords ready to end this madness, and Peter swinging the sword...”Stop...” Jesus said... In Luke He says, “No more of this”... So, Jesus said to Peter, " shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?" - John 18:11

They were all doing what they understood to be the right thing... and Jesus being arrested, being touched, being struck was not right, at any time, anywhere, period. This was all inconceivable to everyone watching this happen...but we must understand...The Father loved the son and the Son love the Father.

You see, Adam left the first garden in chains to die in his sin
Jesus left the second garden in chains to die for our sin.

And so he went.

They suspended him on a pillar and beat him beyond recognition, but that wasn't enough...the wrath of God could not be satisfied by beating a human being enough...it had to be someone more precious, someone so beyond description pure, that it was unthinkable. Only Jesus...

He was silent through the nailing of his hands and feet...he accepted the blinding pain until finally, it happened. And through the delirium of his earthly horror, his spirit rose up in absolute dread, for the moment He never wanted to come, came. The Father turned his face away.

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" - Matthew 27:46

There had never been a moment before or since when the Godhead was separated...

Here is where the wrath of God came down on the Savior, the delight of His heart had abandoned Him. This was pain beyond measure for Jesus, so much so that he cried out, he knew it was coming and He still cried out.

And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. - Matthew 27:50

Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last. - Luke 23:46

And then, through the last throb of the searing heat of the wrath of God, Jesus said the most important words ever uttered, "it is finished."

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. - John 19:30

Tetelestai...it is finished, or said another way, paid in full.

You see, your sin has a number...trillions of dollars in debt, but it has a number because your days are numbered, you can only sin so much...your debt has a number, and your debt, and your debt...but when the Father turns and looks at what His Son did for Him, the lengths He went to satisfy His wrath, the Love He demonstrated to release Him from His Just wrath against sin so He could show mercy...He sees it's priceless, priceless, beyond computation...

And he says, Paid, Paid, Paid, Paid, Paid...Paid in Full, and every morning you wake up, His son is there interceding for you at His right hand, and He once again considers what His son did for Him...He says, Mercy, Mercy, Mercy...new Mercy every morning.

Jesus did what He did for the Father. And it's only His work that counts. But, if our theology of the gospel has any inkling of our performance in it, then it's not the true gospel. Our performance cannot be a thought because it would corrupt the beautiful love story that transpired

You see the gospel isn't about us, but it's for us. The gospel is anchored in this...outside of anything we do or say

The Father loves the son, and the Son loves the Father...but wait there's more...

Go back to John 17:26...The last request of Jesus...the final wish he gave...

I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them." - John 17:26

that the love you have for me, be in them...Love them like you love me...Done and Done. He already wanted to, but this seals it...Jesus insured the love the Father had for Him would be the same He has for you. The love the Father has for Jesus, He has for you...

Where is there room in our hearts to believe the lie that we can be condemned? ...There is now therefore no condemnation because Jesus said it is finished.

Unless we would say He lied on the cross...Unless we would say in all He willingly suffered in being separated from His Father that He didn't suffer enough...we would never do that knowingly.

But, every single moment you allow condemnation, shame, or disqualifying thoughts or you agree with Satan, and you readily put up with his schemes, and you are committing treason against the King...The Father said it was enough, Jesus said it was finished, will we now call them liars, will we drag their love down to our level, or will once and for all believe what Jesus said, stand up and receive His love.

We must realize that Jesus isn't suffering on the cross anymore, He did it all, and He got up...You can imagine the angels waiting...Can we go get Him Father? Not yet, Now?

Okay, go get Him...Heaven hit that tomb like a nuclear bomb in the Spirit realm and Jesus rose victorious once and for all.

John 20... 16 *Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).*

17 Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" - John 20:16-17

Jesus hid himself from Mary to get close to her, because He wanted to see the look on her face when he revealed Himself.

This was the moment He longed for...He was through the worst part, and now He could set them free. Go to brothers, tell them I ascend to My Father, and YOUR FATHER, my God and YOUR GOD.

We have a new Father whose wrath has been satisfied in every way by the only One who could, and He loves you with an everlasting love that is here today to wipe every tear from your eye, every bit of shame, condemnation and disqualification out of your heart...Where is there room for self-pity? How could we question so great a sacrifice for us?

We are worthy because He is worthy, we are loved because He first loved us... Come to the altar and be set free from your shame, come and lay down your condemnation, and be freed from your disqualification – repent of your agreement with the scheme of the enemy and let the true gospel fill your heart with good news today and every day. Let God be God in your life. Let the Father be the Father.