



The Ryburn Christian Clarion

BIBLICAL STUDIES RESOURCE

Upholding the Accuracy of the God-Breathed Word

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Unless otherwise stated, all passages are quoted from the King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible. All explanatory remarks by a writer within scripture verses are enclosed in brackets [].

INSIDE AT A GLANCE

WITH THIS FALL EDITION of the Clarion, we begin our fourth year of reaching out to people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the accuracy of God's Word. Our Father has done mighty things thus far, and we know He will continue to guide our efforts.

"REDEMPTION: A FINISHED WORK" gets us started, this installment, with a reminder of the completed accomplishments of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. His work cannot be added to or improved upon.
by Rick Heeter, Editor-in-Chief.....1

"GOD'S MATCHLESS WORD", in fine fashion, builds upon our cover article. "Our Rights In Christ" details our salvation, discussing some of the many privileges and rights we enjoy as God's kids.
by Michael Burrows.....3

"FROM THE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT": For centuries, Christians and Jews have drawn strength from psalms and hymns. "Real 'Old-Time Gospel'" shows how this is in harmony with the Church Epistles, which are written to us today.
by Keith Jamison, Columnist.....5

"FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT" presents an essay that will allay and calm the fears of the uncertain. In "Security Of The Believer", the permanence of salvation, once truly received, is made plain.
by Chap. J. R. Collins.....6

"INVESTIGATING CREATION SCIENCE" continues its scrutiny of the ancient Biblical texts. We note, in "Six Days Of Restoration", that a couple of words make all the difference between truth and error.
by Rick Heeter, Editor-in-Chief.....8

A Biblical Studies Resource For The Household Of Faith!

REDEMPTION: A FINISHED WORK;

An Accomplished Reality!

ACCORDING TO MY TRUSTY COPY of *The Winston Simplified Dictionary: Encyclopedic Edition*, "redemption" is a noun, meaning, "a freeing or buying back; the state of being freed or bought back; repurchase; release; ransom; the salvation of mankind by Jesus Christ; that which delivers, saves, releases, or the like." The last copyright date for this reference book is 1939, long before the era of so-called "political correctness," hence, definitions like "...the salvation of mankind by Jesus Christ;..." are refreshingly, and unashamedly, bold. The general idea of the meaning, then, is to free something by buying it back or ransoming it. The root word is *redemere* (redeem) in Latin, "to buy again."

In the New Testament, the noun "redemption" is rendered from the Koine Greek word *apolutroseos*. This word is made of the preposition *apo*, which means "away from," and the noun *lutron*, meaning, the ransom paid in order to set someone free. This paying of a ransom is a major theme throughout the Word of God, from Genesis to Revelation. The Old Covenant foretold the coming of the "redeemer," Who would "buy back" from the clutches of the Devil, by the shedding of His innocent blood, all mankind; the New Covenant presents this redemptive work

continued on next page...

as a finished reality, or what we might call a “done deal.” The result is that, as Christians, we “...are bought with a price:...” (I Cor. 6:20a), not with “corruptible things, *as* silver and gold,...But with the precious blood of Christ,....” (I Pet. 1:18 and 19)

Interestingly, it is God Who initiated the action, for He “...saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works [We had nothing to do with it!], but according to his [God’s] own purpose and grace [unmerited, divine favor], which was given us in Christ Jesus....” (II Tim. 1:9) This completed redemption was given to us; we didn’t earn it! It came to us “...in Christ Jesus....,” in what He did for us during His earthly ministry, and upon Calvary’s cross. Let’s now take a moment to note these accomplishments of the Lord Jesus Christ.

First of all, it’s important to understand how mankind got into the position of needing to be redeemed. The bottom line is that Adam and Eve, who had received from God dominion and authority over all the earth (Gen. 1:26), through disobedience to God, forfeited that privilege to Satan. While enduring the temptations in the wilderness, Christ was personally confronted by the Devil himself, who made a remarkable offer to our Savior. In Luke 4:6, we read, “And the devil said unto him [Jesus], All this power [“authority,” which is from the Greek word *exousia*] will I give thee,...for that [the power or authority] is delivered unto me [the Devil]; and to whomsoever I will I [the Devil] give it.” Because of Adam and Eve’s transgression, the authority over the entire earth, including mankind, passed into the hands of God’s arch-enemy. This is further verified by the fact that Christ never disputed the Devil’s claim. Now, as II Corinthians 4:4 states, Satan is the “...god [“ruler” or “prince”] of this world....”

The sad result is that man, in general, is under the capricious influences of Satan’s “perverse” kingdom (Phil. 2:15), and is blissfully unaware of it. This is why our loving God initiated a plan for the redemption, or buying back, of all humanity. God Himself is the Author and Architect of this wonderful rescue mission, and His beloved Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, through perfect obedience, carried out the work, and was Himself the price paid for our release from bondage (John 3:16). In truth, ***not one thing*** concerning man’s redemption was left undone. This is why, at Jesus Christ’s crucifixion, according to John 19:28, “...all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled,....” Also, just before His death, Jesus uttered the phrase, “...It is finished:....” (John 19:30) With those words, the requirements for the ransoming of man were fulfilled. It was ***a finished work***.

This finished work now lives, as a dynamic, accomplished reality, within everyone who confesses Jesus Christ as his or her Lord, believing that God has raised Him from the dead. (Rom. 10:9) Sadly, far too many believers are ignorant of what they received when they were saved, as well as their exalted position in Christ, based upon His labors on their behalf. Through our study of God’s Word, though, we can move from ignorance to enlightenment.

For example, Galatians 1:4 speaks of the Lord Jesus, and how He “...gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver [“rescue”] us from this present evil world, according to the will of God....” This verse tells us that Jesus Christ, by offering Himself as a ransom for us, actually rescued us from this evil world, over which Satan now exercises authority. The children of God, the redeemed, if The Word is true, are no longer under the power of the enemy. For this to come into fruition in a believer’s life, however, the truth of our complete redemption *must* be grasped and understood. The Christian *must* acknowledge the testimony of The Word as being true, and *must* live accordingly.

One of the most intriguing verses dealing with the results of our redemption in Christ is Colossians 1:13. The first part of the passage confirms what we looked at in Galatians, when it declares, “Who [the Father] hath delivered [or “rescued”] us from [*ek*] the power [*exousia*] of darkness,....” Notice that “hath delivered” is in the past tense, for our redemption is finished. Also, “delivered” could be better translated as “rescued,” like we indicated in Galatians 1:4. The word “from” is the Greek preposition *ek*, and, in this case, means “out from (among).” “Power” is, again, *exousia*, “authority”: the same authority the Devil offered the Lord Jesus in Luke 4:6. This power with which Satan once tempted our Lord, is the ***very same*** “power of darkness” from which God has rescued us.

The end of Colossians 1:13 reads, “...and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of [“by the work of”] his dear Son:....” The words “hath translated,” (past tense) from the Sanskrit, mean “has transferred citizenship.” Because of the completed, redemptive work of our Lord, God not only rescued us out from among the authority of darkness, but also gave us citizenship in His kingdom. What a finished work! What a reality! What a wonderful, loving God.

-----by Rick Heeter, Editor-in-Chief

GOD'S MATCHLESS WORD:

A Forum For Presenting The Light Of Life

(This column features a wide range of subjects from God's Word as they are set forth by a host of preachers and teachers from differing avenues of Christian thought and various areas of Biblical study and concern.)

“Our Rights In Christ”

by Michael Burrows

[Editor's Note: *The following edited article has been adapted from the printed transcript of a teaching that was originally presented in a live fellowship setting.]*

THERE I WAS, KNEELING ON THE COUNTER, my hand stretched forth. I was reaching toward the farthest corner, on the top shelf, of the highest cabinet in our kitchen. My main goal was to obtain a chocolate cherry: maybe two, if I was quick. The instant I put my hand on the box of chocolates, I heard, “Hey! What are you doing, Michael?” I jumped down and ran to my room. Later on, after dinner was over, my dad came to me with a chocolate cherry on a saucer. At first I didn't want to take it, and when I did, it didn't taste as sweet. When my dad saw that I wasn't enjoying the treat as it was intended, he asked, “Michael, are you sorry for what you did earlier?” I said, “I sure am.” He smiled, and I knew I was forgiven. Then I smiled and said, “Can I have another?”

I think of this when I read about our rights in Christ. We are God's children, and He wants us blessed. We are not only children of God: we are adopted sons. According to Roman law, a birth child had rights, but could, at any time, be disowned by his father. On the other hand, if the father adopted a child, he was required to pledge to the state that he'd never disown the child. Also, the adopted one was entitled to an equal portion of the inheritance. Likewise, when we are adopted by God, He never forsakes us. In addition, we are entitled to a full share of the inheritance from God (Rom. 8:16 and 17a). We have many rights and privileges in God's family, and in this teaching, we will look at five major ones: redemption, sanctification, justification, righteousness, and the ministry of reconciliation.

REDEMPTION: Let's go through these five rights by starting in the Book of Ephesians to see what it says about redemption.

Ephesians 1:7 and 2:4-7

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; But God, who is [“being”] rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us [“made us alive”] together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

That in the ages to come he might shew [“exhibit”] the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Ephesians is jam-packed full of things God will do for us, because we are joint heirs with Christ, and because we are redeemed, bought back from the enemy's power. Because we are redeemed, God can bless us as recorded here in Ephesians. That's why I started with redemption; without it, the other four rights would be impossible to have.

SANCTIFICATION: Now, let's move on to another privilege, namely, sanctification. The word sanctified means to be “set apart.” Before a person is born again, he or she has only a body and a soul. If, on the other hand, this person gets saved, they receive spirit from God, and are then set apart for Heaven.

I Corinthians 1:30 and 15:52-54

But of him [God] are ye in Christ Jesus, who [Christ Jesus] of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump [“trumpet”]: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and [insert “when”] this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying [“word”] that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

We, as God's children, have been set apart as an elite group of individuals. We are the victors, and are super conquerors through Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:37). God is on our side, and we know if God is for us, who can be against us? (Rom. 8:31) Oh, yeah!

JUSTIFICATION: We'll now examine justification, which will tie in nicely with righteousness. Being justified, in legal terms, means being released from the penalty incurred by sin or wrong-doing.

Romans 3:24; 4:25; and 8:33

Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

RIGHTEOUSNESS: Righteousness is the result of our God-given justification. Even though we are righteous when we are born again, we sometimes forget it. When I forget how much God loves me, I feel unworthy. Then, I try to make myself worth something, and end up failing. It's sad. I finally realize that if my being worthy of God depends on my own strength, I will always be a great failure. I know I am weak and unworthy in myself, but Christ has made me worthy, so no matter how I feel or what my feeble mind tells me, I am strong and **WORTHY in Him**. This righteousness we have in Christ, therefore, allows us to stand in the very presence of God Almighty without any consciousness of sin, guilt, or condemnation.

Philippians 3:9

And be found in him [Christ], not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that [righteousness] which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Righteousness does not come by the cross we bear, but by the cross the Lord Jesus Christ bore for us. The righteousness of God is given to every believer, not by our works, but by God's grace (divine favor).

II Corinthians 5:21

For he [God] hath made him [Jesus Christ] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him [Christ].

God made Jesus Christ, Who knew no sin, to be sin for us. The Lord took our sin upon Himself, so we could be made the righteousness of God. Everything Adam lost in the fall, and more, Jesus Christ regained for the believer when He died upon the cross and was raised from the dead. All we need to do is renew our minds to the righteousness with which God has clothed us. We must know that there is nothing we can do, once we are saved, to become unworthy.

Romans 3:21 and 22

But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

Even the righteousness of God which is by [insert "the"] faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION: Redemption, sanctification, justification, and righteousness equip us so we, as God's sons and daughters, can ably carry out the ministry of reconciliation.

II Corinthians 5:17-20

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature ["creation"]: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

To wit ["know"], that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses ["sin"] unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech ["implore"] you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

What does it mean to be reconciled? In the Scriptures, it means to be brought back into a state of favor with God. This was done for us by our Lord Jesus Christ.

We have noted that we have *redemption* "in Christ Jesus," for we have been bought back from the Devil's snare. We enjoy *sanctification*, being set apart for God, because we are body, soul, and spirit beings who shall live forever. We have *justification*, having been released from the penalty of sin by God's grace. The result is that we stand before the Father clothed in the *righteousness* of God Himself. Finally, we have been given the *ministry of reconciliation*, by which we have the privilege of sharing The Word and bringing men and women back into a right relationship with God. He has certainly equipped us with everything we need, and has given us the rights that are necessary for us to live as He intends, as more than conquerors. May God bless you, and please remember, you are a child of God with rights.*

(Mr. Michael Burrows was reared in a Christian home, and came to appreciate God's Word early on. He has recently spent a year in "The Fellow Laborers" program, under the auspices of Christian Family Fellowship Ministry (Tipp City, Ohio), learning to serve in the Body of Christ. He presently attends Colorado State University, where he majors in Construction Management.)

AN INVITATION TO SHARE!

*If you are interested in submitting an article for our "God's Matchless Word" column or, perhaps, an essay, some original Christian poetry, or a testimony for our "For Your Spiritual Enrichment" column, please note that it is best to send them on a 3½" floppy disk, using a standard Microsoft[™] Word[®] format. You may also e-mail your submissions, in a "plain text" format, sending them to ryburnclarion2@sbcglobal.net. If you desire, you may send a fax to (937) 276-5534. For more information, feel free to call us at (937) 275-3316. If you would like to send a letter to the editor, you may use our e-mail address or fax number, or simply write **The Ryburn Christian Clarion**, 420 Ryburn Avenue, Suite C-2, Dayton, Ohio 45405-2552. If you would like to support our outreach work financially, please make your offerings payable to "The Ryburn Christian Clarion," and mail them to the same address.*

FROM THE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

(This column, featuring the work of Keith Jamison, examines God's Word and how its application in our Twenty-First Century lives has been influenced by mythology, philosophy, and tradition.)

“Real ‘Old-Time Gospel’ ”

THERE ARE TWO VERSES IN THE Church Epistles, Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16, that are strikingly similar. Both tell us, as believers, to sing (and speak) psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. These are “musics” which God has given us for a purpose. In this study, we will take a brief look at psalms, in particular, in order to better understand what they are and how they, along with music in general, fit into our lives. Let’s first, however, look at the verses in question.

Ephesians 5:19

Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing [“counseling”] one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

What, then, is a psalm? Very simply put, it is a song. The word translated “songs” in these verses could be rendered “odes.” An “ode” is a chant, song, or poem. The word “ode” comes from the Greek verb *ado*, meaning, “to sing.” “Singing,” in both these verses, is a form of this Greek verb, *ado*. The word “psalms,” on the other hand, is derived from the Greek plural noun, *psalmoi* (which is from the singular noun, *psalmos*), indicating “sacred odes (songs).” The verb form is *psallo*, and is translated as “making melody” in Ephesians 5:19. The Greek word rendered “hymns” is *hommnos*, “songs of praise.” *Hommnos* is related to a Greek verb which means “to celebrate.”

In Hebrew, a “song of praise” is a *zimrah*, which, in the Old Testament, is translated “psalm.” There are other Hebrew words that are translated “psalm,” as well. The Book of Psalms gets its name from the Septuagint, the Greek Old Testament, where the word *psalmoi* (“psalms”) is used, however, the title in Hebrew is *Tehilim*, which means “praises.” Also, the Hebrew word *mizmowr* is sometimes translated “psalm,” and is related to *zimrah*, but is Biblically only used in the subtitles of the various psalms. This seems to set a distinction between the Book of Psalms and other songs of praise. The proper distinction between psalms and hymns is that the psalms are “God-breathed” (Please see the phrase, “...given by inspiration of God...,” in II Timothy 3:16.), literally authored by God Himself, while hymns are not. This places the Book of Psalms in the primary position, ahead of songs of praise.

How, then, do the psalms pertain to our lives as Christians? “Music hath power to soothe the savage breast (or beast)”: most of us have heard this saying, or some form thereof. Music has power and can influence our emotions, for good or ill. Hollywood has long used the musical score in a movie to draw the viewer into the story. Music can build the tension and suspense, and burst with fanfare and excitement at the climax. It also reflects, and induces, emotional states, not only those of the writer or composer, but the listeners, as well. This playing of our heartstrings comes primarily from the rhythm and tempo of the sounds, and not from the meaning of the words, if there are any.

This does not mean that the words are without influence. Words have power of their own. Their power, however, is affected by the music they are accompanying. In songs without musical instrumentation, the music consists of the manner in which the words are sung. Angry and hateful words in an angry tone become angrier. Happy words sung to a happy tune become happier. Also, the ideas and messages of the words become associated with the emotions elicited by the music, hence, even today, people use music to get their messages across. From environmental activists to anarchists, from peace lovers to hate mongers, all see music as a way of spreading and reinforcing their messages. It affects us, not only as individuals, but as groups, also. For groups, music unifies. This unity magnifies the effects upon the individual. We can be influenced by the emotions and convictions of those around us. Happy, blessed people spread smiles; sad people spread discouragement.

All this has been said so we can understand the tremendous power of words, especially when set to stirring music. It should now be easier to see why God tells us that psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs are for edification. Ephesians 5:19 says, “Speaking to yourselves...,” and “...singing and making melody in your heart...” Here, psalms are recommended for the edification of the individual saint. The Book of Psalms is full of praises to God, and promises from God. Every human emotion is expressed. No matter where the believer is in life, there is a psalm that will bless and encourage him, enriching his walk with God.

In Colossians 3:16, on the other hand, we are told to teach and admonish “...one another...” Just as psalms can help us in our own individual lives, they can also aid us in our fellowship with others, and in the outreach of God’s Word. Their use edifies the body of believers. We are to speak and/or sing them in order to “Let the word...dwell in...[us]...richly....” There is great comfort

in these writings, even though the music that accompanied them is long forgotten. Although much concerning how the psalms were used in congregational worship has been lost to antiquity, they still speak of God's promises and His power to deliver. They were written in ancient Hebrew, and not English, and, so, some of their expressiveness has not come across to modern believers, but we continue to benefit from their counsel, even in this Twenty-First Century. We generally speak the psalms nowadays, but their enduring messages still guide our feet.

Although we do not have the music, for the rhythm and cadence of the words was lost in translation, the psalms still sing to our hearts. They comfort and edify us; they teach and admonish us; they give us counsel; and they

help us, as children of God, to praise the Lord. In closing, it is important to note that both Ephesians and Colossians, which are specifically aimed at the "faithful" Christian believer (Eph. 1:1 and Col. 1:2), encourage us to edify, not only ourselves, but our brothers and sisters in Christ, and to do so with the truths of these ancient, sacred odes. May we, as God's modern-day kids, heed this instruction. Until next time, may the Lord richly bless you.*

(Mr. Keith Jamison is presently the director of The Ryburn Christian Clarion's Research Department, and regularly develops material for the "From The Research Department" and "Investigating Creation Science" columns.)

Fax your submissions to the Clarion at.....(937) 276-5534.

FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

Essay

(This column offers our readers a variety of inspirational and edifying submissions. In this "grab-bag," appearing from time to time, you will find essays, book reviews, testimonies, poetry, letters, and other things designed to exhort and comfort God's people.)

"Security Of The Believer"

by Chap. J. R. Collins

[Editor's Note: *The following edited article has been excerpted from the booklet, Security Of The Believer (Revealed), by J. R. Collins. Sections of this study have also been abridged to comply with editorial constraints.]*

CAN A BELIEVER WHO HAS TRULY been saved be insecure in Christ? What do the Scriptures say? Salvation is about believing in Jesus Christ. It comes by trusting or believing that Jesus Christ paid for our sins, with His blood, on the cross.

John 3:16 and 36a

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life:...

We are not saved by works. The Bible makes it clear that our works have nothing whatsoever to do with it. We don't receive it by works, and we don't keep it by works! Titus 3:5 says, we have it, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us,...." Salvation is a free gift. If we had to work for it, it would not be a gift, and God would be a liar.

Ephesians 2:8 and 9

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Romans 5:18b and 6:23

...by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Salvation is not a process, but an event in time. It is a "new" birth. Just as your first birth happened at a certain time and on a particular day, even so the second birth occurs in an instant. You become a child of God when you are born again.

II Corinthians 6:2b

...behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation...

John 3:3

Jesus answered and said unto him, ...Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

I Peter 1:23

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

I John 3:2a

Beloved, now are we the sons of God,...

Nothing can separate us from our Father. Do you have children? Will they always be your kids? Could you or they do anything to break the physical relationship that was established through birth? Consider yourself as the child. Even if you never see them, it does not mean that your parents are not part of your family. Likewise, nothing can separate us from God once we're saved. We may lose fellowship with God sometimes, but we will always be His children.

Romans 8:38 and 39

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature ["created thing"], shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 10:29

My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

Jesus promised that he would never leave us. He could not say this if there was even a chance of losing our salvation.

Hebrews 13:5b

...for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Announcing An Emblem Of Accuracy!



We introduce, with this installment of The Ryburn Christian Clarion, our new logo. In the future, this emblem will adorn our business cards, letterhead, our return address on envelopes, and, most especially, the masthead on the cover of every copy of the Clarion. The colors used on the logo are scripturally significant. The blue shield represents the protection and presence of God; the green stands for spiritual growth; while the shades of yellow and gold denote the light of God's Word, which is at the center of all we endeavor to do. Additionally, the crossed clarion trumpets on the shield represent the call to pay heed to the proclaiming of the Scriptures. There are a pair of them because Biblically the number two indicates that something has been established, and is absolutely true. Finally, the downward-pointing blade symbolizes the Word of God, "the sword of the Spirit," coming down from God to man. It is our belief that this emblem, if the Lord tarries, will come to represent Biblical integrity and accuracy. In conclusion, on this occasion, we, at the Clarion, extend our thanks and appreciation to Dr. Stephen J. West, of Akribos Theological Seminary, who was instrumental in the logo's development, for the energy and hours of graphic design he spent on this project.

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Matthew 28:20b

...I am with you always, even unto the end of the world...

When the Bible speaks of having eternal life, it speaks of it in the present tense: "hath," "have," etc. Once we have it, Jesus Christ will never cast us out.

I John 5:13a

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life,...

John 5:24

...He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life,...

John 6:37b

...him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

We are complete in Christ Jesus. Also, we have been "perfected for ever" through our Lord Jesus Christ. How could the Lord make such bold claims if we have to maintain our salvation through works?

Colossians 2:10a

And ye are complete in him [Christ],...

Hebrews 10:14

For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

We are preserved in Christ Jesus, and are kept, or guarded, by the power of God. In truth, we are "sealed" unto the day of redemption, for we are members of the Body of Christ, The Church.

Jude 1 and 24

Jude, ...to them that are...preserved in Jesus Christ,...

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory...

I Peter 1:5a

Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation...

Ephesians 1:13b and 4:30

...after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

I Corinthians 12:27

Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

What about someone who forsakes The Word, or "backslides," after being saved? The Bible says that person will suffer loss (rewards in Heaven, which are by merit), but he, himself, shall remain saved.

I Corinthians 3:15

If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved;...

If we could lose our salvation, then God is a liar. We should trust the Word of God instead of our own feelings, or the traditions of men, which make The Word of no effect in our lives.

I John 5:10b

...he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

Mark 7:13a

Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition,...

Let's not be led into doubt and confusion through misunderstood or misapplied scriptures. If we study God's Word (II Tim. 2:15) and diligently seek Him (Heb. 11:6), His way of salvation will become clear to us. God bless!*

(Chap. J. R. Collins, in 2002, helped found the Ryburn Chapel in north Dayton, Ohio, and served as its chaplain and director of television programming for over two years. Recently, he authored a booklet on salvation entitled Security Of The Believer (Revealed). He and his wife, Debra, presently live in Trotwood, Ohio. You may e-mail the chaplain at grace_research_fellowship@yahoo.com.)

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INVESTIGATING CREATION SCIENCE

(In this column, which appears in every spring and fall issue of The Ryburn Christian Clarion, members of the Clarion's research team explore the timely and unfolding evidence that supports the Biblical assertion concerning the Divine creation of all things, visible and invisible. Join us as we take a journey into scriptures and science alike to investigate the latest, compelling proofs.)

“Six Days Of Restoration”

by Rick Heeter

SINCE WE'VE COVERED SO MUCH detail, and have pointed out such depth, in the opening verses of Genesis, it seems wise to review our efforts to this point before proceeding. In our first article in this column, appropriately titled “**The Beginning**” (Vol. II, No. 3; Spring, 2005), and the subsequent articles, “**Without Form And Void**” (Vol. III, No. 1; Fall, 2005) and “**Shedding Some Light On The Matter**” (Vol. III, No. 3; Spring, 2006), we set forth a number of distinctive conclusions. Let's take another look at some of the most salient ones before going further.

“**The Beginning**” laid out a logical point of departure, recognizing mankind's basic God-hunger. In their search for answers to life's questions, men have routinely turned to religion (or superstition), philosophy, and, in recent centuries, science. In fact, cosmology, the scientific study of the origin and nature of the universe, has, in recent years, led many a hardened scientist to the inescapable conclusion that we are here by “Intelligent Design.”

Science, however, by its very nature, is ill-equipped to handle the task it has set for itself. The Bible teaches that the true nature of life is *spirit*, and, yet, scientific scrutiny relies entirely upon verifiable, empirical evidence. Since invisible, intangible spirit cannot be examined in a laboratory, under controlled conditions, the scientific community will never be able to provide satisfying answers regarding life. The bottom line is that God is the answer to all their questions.

Genesis 1:1 portrays God Almighty performing the *very first act*, that of creating the heavens and the Earth. Whether this moment of *spontaneous existence* is what the scientists refer to as “The Big Bang” remains to be seen. Both have two things in common: the universe beginning at a specific moment in time, and a catalyst that impelled everything there is into existence. “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth,” from Genesis, appears to fit the scientific hypothesis quite nicely.

As believers, we know that the catalyst, God, is the First Cause. He alone has the ability “to be,” or exist, in Himself. All else is the result of His *initial activity*. We do certainly exist, and cause things to happen, but our pitiful abilities came not of themselves, but are the result of a chain of events that extends back to “the beginning.” The Word, lovingly provided by the Creator, is the annals of many of those events. It provides context, showing us what went before, and what is to come.

Genesis, therefore, is invaluable, for it provides a detailed, accurate account of supernatural activity that founded the very environment in which we live out our lives. As we noted in the second article, “**Without Form And Void**”, there are 102 separate acts of God recorded from Genesis 1:1 to 2:3, and, yet, only three of them are acts of “creation” (*bara*, in Hebrew). The other 99 describe the Almighty as moving, seeing, dividing, speaking, calling, making, setting things in order, sanctifying, and blessing. Finally, in Genesis 2:3, God rested from all His work which He had “created [*bara*] and made [*asah*, indicating that substance, or raw material, is required].” Obviously, there are two areas of Godly activity being described. First, we have

God creating (Gen. 1:1), bringing things into existence out of nothing (*bara*), plus, once the universe exists, we see Him making (*asah*), using material that now exists, hence, God's work also involved moving, dividing, and setting things in order.

The key to understanding what God is doing here is found in two verses. In Genesis 1:28, God commanded Adam and Eve to “...Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth,....” This word “replenish” should have arrested our attention long ago. How can you replenish something that has never existed before? The word “replenish” comes directly from *replenus*, a Latin word that means “to fill up again,” or “to refill.” Adam and Eve were told to “refill” the earth, because, sometime after creation, something catastrophic occurred that caused the Earth to fall into ruin. This is borne out by Genesis 1:2.

In Genesis 1:2a, the King James Version reads, “And the earth was [*hayah*] without form, and void;....” The word rendered “was” in this phrase is the Hebrew word *hayah*, which, in this past tense usage, could be translated “existed,” “became,” “came to be,” or “came to pass.” Here it must be translated “became” or “came to be” in order to be in harmony with God's command to fill up the Earth again. This is further verified by the Hebrew words *tohu va bohu*, which are rendered “without form and void” in this verse. *Tohu* means “formless,” while *bohu* means “empty.” A perfect creation “became formless and empty” because of some tremendous cataclysm, therefore, we see God commanding Adam and Eve to “refill” the Earth. This took place after God spent six days “restoring” the formless Earth so it was habitable for mankind.

The article “**Shedding Some Light On The Matter**” supplies a final bit of information that corroborates these conclusions. In Hebrews 11:3, dealing with the time of creation, The Word declares, “...the worlds were framed by the word of God,....” The word “framed” in this verse is the Greek word *katartizo*, meaning, “to completely and thoroughly repair.” Because of some horrendous calamity, most likely “war in heaven” and the expulsion of Lucifer and one third of the angels (Rev. 12:3-4,7, and 8), God took action to “repair” a flawless creation that had fallen into total disarray, and had become empty of life. There are other sections of God's Word that further substantiate these claims, and we, as long as the Lord tarries, will continue to lay them before our readers. God bless.*

(Please look for “Investigating Creation Science” in every spring and fall issue of The Ryburn Christian Clarion. Join us as we journey into the sciences and the accuracy of the Word of God.)

(Mr. Rick Heeter has been a student of the Holy Scriptures for over thirty-four years, having participated in many Biblical studies classes and seminars. He is currently the editor-in-chief, book reviewer, and a columnist for The Ryburn Christian Clarion.)

**Articles and columns submitted to The Ryburn Christian Clarion are edited to ensure correct spelling and punctuation, proper grammar, and clarity of expression.*