

**THE
SACRIFICE
OF JESUS**

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JIM HARWELL



Bridge Books

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Introduction

The sacrifice of Jesus Christ and His death on the cross is a most sacred and holy subject.

What happened after he died? Three days later, He rose again! Then, He ascended to heaven! Jesus is alive forevermore! Amen! Glory to God forever!

Because of Jesus, we can receive the greatest offer made to mankind: eternal life.

Jesus said, "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom You have sent" (John 17:3).

Knowing God is the greatest, highest and only privilege for mankind.

Those who know Jesus as Lord and Savior can celebrate Him, forever!

Jesus is the Savior! And He is the Lord God Almighty! Amen! We can celebrate and rest – and infinitely, eternally more – in Him and all that He is.

This new life is beyond a celebration. His offer is so glorious and wonderful, human words

cannot express it.

Think of it: we can have an eternal relationship with the Lord God Almighty!

Someone may ask, what is He like?

He is the most wonderful, most beautiful Person in the universe.

Jesus' offers the riches of the glory of the mystery of knowing the only true God, including: the glory of the Lord, the divine nature, abundant, overflowing life, divine love, faith, hope, fullness of joy, perfect peace, eternal purpose, harmony, living forever in heaven, a place of absolute glory, and infinitely more! Amen!

The subject of this short booklet is the sacrifice of Jesus.

So, we have two very different topics: Jesus Christ's sacrifice, severe suffering and death; and a glorious, eternal celebration.

Which do we do: honor and revere His sacrifice, or celebrate Him and all that He is? Both!

Scripture about the Sacrifice of Jesus

“All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (Revelation 13:8)

“Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently;
He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high.

14 Just as many were astonished at you,
So His visage was marred more than any man,
And His form more than the sons of men;

15 So shall He sprinkle many nations.

Kings shall shut their mouths at Him;

For what had not been told them they shall see,

And what they had not heard they shall consider.

Who has believed our report?

And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

2 For He shall grow up before Him as a tender

plant,

And as a root out of dry ground.

He has no form or comeliness;

And when we see Him,

There is no beauty that we should desire Him.

3 He is despised and rejected by men,

A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him;

He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

4 Surely He has borne our griefs

And carried our sorrows;

Yet we esteemed Him stricken,

Smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 But He was wounded for our transgressions,

He was bruised for our iniquities;

The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,

And by His stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray;

We have turned, every one, to his own way;

And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted,

Yet He opened not His mouth;

He was led as a lamb to the slaughter,

And as a sheep before its shearers is silent,

So He opened not His mouth.

8 He was taken from prison and from judgment,

And who will declare His generation?

For He was cut off from the land of the living;

For the transgressions of My people He was

stricken.

9 And they made His grave with the wicked—
But with the rich at His death,
Because He had done no violence,
Nor was any deceit in His mouth.

10 Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him;
He has put Him to grief.
When You make His soul an offering for sin,
He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His
days,

And the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in
His hand.

11 He shall see the labor of His soul, and be
satisfied.

By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall
justify many,

For He shall bear their iniquities.

12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with
the great,

And He shall divide the spoil with the strong,
Because He poured out His soul unto death,
And He was numbered with the transgressors,
And He bore the sin of many,

And made intercession for the transgressors”
(Isaiah 52:13-15 and Isaiah 53)

ONE

The Sacrifice of Jesus

For all eternity, the sacrifice of Jesus Christ will be honored, revered, proclaimed and infinitely more.

God sent His Son Jesus Christ to die for the world.

Jesus died for the life of the world.

Only one faith has a Savior Who died for the world.

Only one God loves the world so much that He gave His only Son and sent Him to the earth to save and redeem mankind.

God came to earth as a man and justified Himself to the world.

In fact, He did something even more sacrificial than coming to the earth Himself. He sent His only begotten Son to die for the world. Whosoever believes in the Lord Jesus shall not perish but have everlasting life.

Yet, He was hated, betrayed, condemned, and rejected.

He was beaten again and again, scourged, whipped, and flogged to the point of death.

He was brutally whipped 39 times. The instrument had thongs with metal hooks and pottery shards, designed to tear the flesh to the bone. Forty lashes was designed to kill someone.

A crown of thorns was placed on His head. His head was beaten with a heavy wooden stick.

He was mocked, ridiculed, spit upon, and slapped on the face.

He was insulted, taunted, reviled, and blasphemed.

They drove nails through his hands and feet.

He was crucified on a cross for six hours, one of the most brutal forms of execution. He was killed. He was executed.

Jesus shed His blood seven times and was the perfect sacrifice.

He rose from the dead, ascended to heaven and lives forevermore.

Jesus Christ is the Lamb who was slain from the foundation of the world.

Whosoever relies on Him shall not perish but have everlasting life. Receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. He is the only way to life and heaven.

John 3:16-17, the Gospels, John 17:4, Isaiah 53:3,5,7-9, John 15:18, Mark 10:33, Matthew 21:42, Luke 17:25, John 1:11, Mark 15:19, Mark

10:33, John 19:1, Mark 10:34

John 19:3, Matthew 27:44, Matthew 27:39,
John 20:25, Luke 24:39, Matthew 27:32-56, Mark
14:53-65, Luke 23:26-43, John 18:12-28, Mark
15:25,33-37, John 19:34, Revelation 13:8, Mark
16, Luke 24

The Crucifixion in the Gospels:

Mark 15:24-32

Luke 23:33-43

John 19:18-27

Matthew 27:35-44

TWO

Jesus Shed His Blood Seven Times

Jesus shed His blood seven times. He was the perfect sacrifice.

In the Bible, seven is the number of completion, perfection and redemption.

The Seven (7) Times Jesus Shed His Blood:

He sweated drops of blood – Luke 22:44

His head, crown of thorns – Matthew 27:29

His face – Mark 14:65, Isaiah 50:6

His back, whipping, 39 lashes – MT 27:26

His hands, nailed on the cross – LK 24:39-40

His feet, nailed on the cross – LK 24:39-40

His side, pierced after he died – John 19:34

Jesus offers healing to mankind for all of the seven times He shed His blood.

Jesus Shed His Blood Seven (7) Times		
Jesus Shed His Blood from:	Healing of Our:	Scripture
He sweat-ed drops of blood	Soul	Luke 22:44
His head crown of thorns	Mind	Matthew 27:29
His face	Image	Mark 14:65, Isaiah 50:6
His back whipping 39 lashes	Body	MT 27:26, Isaiah 53:5
His hands nailed on the cross	Work	Luke 24:39-40
His feet nailed on the cross	Walk	Luke 24:39-40
His side pierced after he died	Salvation, the Church	John 19:34

THREE

Sacrifices in the Old Testament

The Bible reveals the only true God, the great God Jehovah, the Lord God Almighty.

When He came to the earth as a man, He revealed Himself as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Bible and all 66 books reveal Jesus Christ specifically, who is the Lord God Almighty.

Two of the main themes of the Bible are: the redemption of man; and the lineage, or the seed, of Jesus Christ.

The sacrifice and death of Jesus redeems and saves mankind.

Altars and Sacrifices in the Old Testament

All the animal sacrifices in the Old Testament

are types, symbols and a foreshadowing of the sacrifice of Jesus.

The shedding of the animals' blood is symbolic of Jesus' shedding His blood for mankind.

The burning of the animals in fire is a type and symbol of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit

One of the primary foundations, types and symbols of the Holy Spirit, of God, in the Bible is fire.

The Lord God is a consuming fire (Deuteronomy 4:24). Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit and fire (Matthew 3:11). Seven lamps of fire/fiery torches are before the throne of God, which are the seven Spirits of God (Revelation 4:5).

Today, when a saint applies the blood, the Holy Spirit is present.

The Patriarchs' Altars, Sacrifices and Offerings

At the appointed times, the patriarchs built an altar, sacrificed animals, and offered blood.

Noah – Genesis 8:20

Abraham – Genesis 12:7, 13:4, 22:9

Isaac – Genesis 26:25

Jacob – Genesis 33:20, 35:1-3

Moses – Exodus 17:15

The Offense of the Cross

Paul wrote about the “offense of the cross” (Galatians 5:11).

In the natural, and before someone meets Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus’ sacrifice and the sacrifice of animals can be challenging to accept. They are an offense.

An offense is an “annoyance or resentment brought about by a perceived insult to or disregard for oneself or one’s standards or principles.”

In the natural, death is not a pleasant thing at all! And the brutal execution of a person – moreover, the son of God – is even more challenging to accept!

In the natural, the act of killing an animal, shedding its blood, and burning parts of the animal in fire is unpleasant. Again, on the surface, these sacrifices might be hard to accept.

Glory to God

We should humble ourselves before God Almighty, and be in awe of His sacrifice and of Jesus’ sacrifice.

There is no room for our natural reactions and opinions of God’s most holy sacrifice to save mankind.

Glory to God forever!

FOUR

Jesus' Sacrifice in Genesis

First Animal Sacrifice

The first sacrifice of an animal in the Old Testament foreshadowed the sacrifice of Jesus.

After Adam and Eve sinned, God slew an animal, shed its blood, and clothed them with animal skins.

“Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made coats of skin, and clothed them” (Genesis 3:21).

Adam's Side, Creation of the Woman

In Genesis 2:21, we read that God took a rib out of Adam and created the woman.

This eternal event is prophetic in several ways. This event is a foreshadowing and a symbol of

Jesus' side being pierced, His blood shed, and water flowing.

The chart below presents the prophecies fulfilled in the sacrifice of Jesus.

Adam's deep sleep speaks of Jesus' death.

Adam's rib removed and the woman created is prophetic about the birth of the church.

When a rib is removed, blood is shed, which is symbolic of Jesus' shed blood.

The water flowing from Jesus' side speaks of the coming of the Holy Spirit.

“So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man” (Genesis 2:21-22).

“Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water” (John 19:34).

Prophetic Events in Genesis 2:21-22 Fulfilled in the Sacrifice of Jesus			
Prophecy	Scripture	Prophecy Fulfilled	Scripture
Adam put to sleep	Gen. 2:21	Jesus' death	The Gospels
Rib removed, blood shed	Gen. 2:21	Jesus' side pierced, blood shed	John 19:34
Woman created	Gen. 2:22	The birth of the church	Acts 2
		Water flowing from Jesus' side	The coming of the Holy Spirit

FIVE

Jesus' Sacrifice in Exodus

The Book of Exodus contains many prophecies about the sacrifice of Jesus.

One of the primary prophetic is the instructions for the Passover, in Chapter 12.

The Passover speaks gloriously about the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. Below, after the scripture, are ten (10) prophecies from Exodus 12 and how they apply to the believer today.

“Now the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, 2 “This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you. 3 Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: ‘On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb,

according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household. 4 And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make your count for the lamb. 5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. 6 Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. 7 And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. 8 Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. 9 Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire—its head with its legs and its entrails. 10 You shall let none of it remain until morning, and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire. 11 And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover" (Exodus 12:1-12)

Prophetic Events in Exodus 12 Fulfilled in the Sacrifice of Jesus		
Beg. of months	v. 2	Jesus makes all things new
Lamb	v. 3	Jesus is the lamb of God
Lamb without blemish	v. 5	Jesus is the sinless, perfect sacrifice
Kill the lamb at twilight	v. 6	Jesus died on the cross at twilight
Blood on the sides & top of the door	v. 7	The cross
Eat the lamb's flesh	v. 8	Jesus offers life if we eat His flesh JN 6:53
Lamb roasted in fire	v. 8, 9	Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit
Unleavened bread	v. 8	Jesus the bread Who takes away our sin
Bitter herbs	v. 8	The bitterness of the gospel MT 5:10 & 21:44
Eat it in haste	v. 11	Find Jesus, leave sin & the world fast.

SIX

Jesus' Sacrifice in Leviticus

The cleansing of the leper in Leviticus 14 speaks of Jesus' sacrifice and death and our salvation and cleansing.

A leper speaks of a sinner, as leprosy in the Bible represents sin (Leviticus 13, Mark 1:40).

God told Moses how a leper was to be cleansed:

"1 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 'This shall be the law of the leper for the day of his cleansing: . . . 4 then the priest shall command to take for him who is to be cleansed two living and clean birds, cedar wood, scarlet, and hyssop. 5 And the priest shall command that one of the birds be killed in an earthen vessel over running water. 6 As for the living bird, he shall take it, the cedar wood and the scarlet and the

hyssop, and dip them and the living bird in the blood of the bird that was killed over the running water. And he shall sprinkle it seven times on him who is to be cleansed from the leprosy, and shall pronounce him clean, and shall let the living bird loose in the open field” (Leviticus 14:1-7).

Prophetic Events in Leviticus 14 Fulfilled in the Sacrifice of Jesus		
Cedar wood	v. 4	The cross
Scarlet	v.4	Jesus' suffering
Hyssop	v. 4	Our faith
Bird killed	v. 5	Jesus' death
Earthen vessel	v. 5	Jesus; God as a man
Running water	v. 5	The Holy Spirit & the word of God
Sprinkle blood seven times	v. 7	Jesus shed His blood seven times
Bird released	v. 7	Jesus' resurrection

SEVEN

Jesus' Sacrifice in Numbers

Jesus was the sinless Son of God. Yet, on the cross, He became our sin.

Jesus spoke about becoming sin, referring to an event recorded in the Book of Numbers. Jesus said: "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:14-15)

Fiery Serpent

God told Moses to place a fiery serpent on a pole. Those who looked at the snake would live.

The people had spoken against God and Moses, complaining about being in the wilderness. So God sent snakes among them, which bit them, killing many (Numbers 21:5-6).

“Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live.’ 9 So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived” (Numbers 21:8-9)

Prophetic Events in Numbers 21 Fulfilled in the Sacrifice of Jesus		
Fiery, fire	v. 8	The Holy Spirit
Serpent on a pole	v. 8	Jesus on the cross becomes our sin
Everyone	v. 8	God offers salvation to everyone
Bitten	v. 8	Everyone is a sinner in need of salvation and healing
When he looks at the serpent, he shall live	v. 8	When we rely on Jesus, we shall live

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

EIGHT

Jesus, the Bread of Life, the Sacrifice for the World

In the bread of life passage, in John 6, Jesus speaks about His sacrifice.

“I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world” (John 6:51).

Jesus gave His flesh, His body, for the life of the world.

He goes on to explain that those who eat His flesh and drink His blood has eternal life. And those who do not eat His flesh or drink His blood have no life in them.

“52 The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, ‘How can this Man give us

His flesh to eat?’

53 Then Jesus said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. 56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. 58 This is the bread which came down from heaven – not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever’” (John 6:52-58)

NINE

The Lord's Supper

When Jesus spoke about His sacrifice and suffering at the Last Supper, He revealed eternal mysteries and secrets.

It is truly a divine mystery that God would send His Son to die for the world.

It is another true mystery that Jesus would suffer and die the way He did, to save mankind.

Today, we can take communion and remember Jesus' broken body and the blood He shed for us.

"14 When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. 15 Then He said to them, 'With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; 16 for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.'

17 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, 'Take this and divide it among yourselves; 18 for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.'

19 And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.'

20 Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you'" (Luke 22:14-20).

TEN

A Living Sacrifice

In the gospels, one of Jesus' main messages is about "death to self."

What does He mean by this?

Jesus said if anyone wants to be His follower, he must "forget himself . . . lose his life for Jesus . . . give up everything he has . . . hate his life . . . take up his cross and follow Jesus. . ." (Matthew 16:24-26, 10:39, Luke 14:33, John 12:25).

Death of a Grain of Wheat

The eternal truth of a person "dying" is so glorious, holy and significant, human words can never express it.

During His Passion, just before the Last Supper, Jesus spoke about His death and about a person's "death to self."

Pause

Let's pause here and realize how holy and glorious Jesus' words are. And how holy and glorious His sacrifice and death is.

**“Son of Man Glorified . . . Grain of Wheat .
. . For this Purpose I Came to this Hour . . .
Father, Glorify Your Name”**

“But Jesus answered them, saying, ‘The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. 24 Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. 25 He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor’” (John 12:23-26).

Jesus is of course speaking about His death.

Jesus teaches regarding the fact that if a grain of wheat dies, it bears much fruit.

Then He reveals that “he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life” (John 12:25).

Then He reveals more eternal truth.

Then He says, “Father, glorify Your name” (v. 28).

A Voice from Heaven

What happened next is beyond human comprehension.

“Then a voice came from heaven, saying, ‘I have both glorified it and will glorify it again’” (John 12:28).

Those who were there “said it had thundered” (John 12:29).

Pause

Let’s pause again and realize how significant this event is. The Father God Almighty literally replied from heaven. Glory to God!

Jesus Reveals His Death

In the grain of wheat, Jesus spoke about His death.

He also reveals that a person must “die to self” to find eternal life.

It is truly holy and sacred that during the Passion, as Jesus speaks about His death, that He also reveals how can a person find eternal life: by dying.

And think of how holy and glorious it is that the Father God Almighty would literally speak audibly from heaven!

Human words can never express the significance of these truths, revelations and events.

Living Sacrifice

Man's greatest and highest privilege is to know God Almighty, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

If a person was granted just one second with Him – even just to see Him for one second – it would be that person's greatest and highest privilege.

Yet, God offers Himself to us – and infinitely, eternally more – forever!

His offer is truly beyond human comprehension. Glory to God!

Sacrifice

Without the Holy Spirit, a person may think they are “sacrificing” and “giving up everything.”

In reality, when we give our life to God through Jesus, we give up nothing and receive everything.

We enter into the life God intends for man to live and have.

We “die” and Jesus Christ lives in and through us, forever! Amen!

Thank you Jesus for your sacrifice and death!
Glory to God forever.

ELEVEN

Misconceptions about Knowing God

The misconceptions about knowing God, are rampant and widespread.

Let's first look at what God offers:

God Offers Himself

God's offer of Himself is the greatest, most incredible and only offer to mankind.

What is God like?

He is the most wonderful, most beautiful Person in the universe.

From Psalms: "I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works" (Psalm 145:5).

Jesus in the Power of the Holy Spirit

A key to knowing God is a person's relationship with the Holy Spirit, Who is God, the Spirit of the Father and the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

When someone goes deeper with Jesus, and they meet the Holy Spirit, they will begin to experience His glory and majesty.

When they meet Him, they will only want Him. They will never be the same.

His glory is Him! When someone gets to know Him, they will begin to experience what He is like, such as His attributes, character, personality and infinitely more.

God revealed His character and attributes to Moses:

"And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, 'The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation'" (Exodus 34:6-7).

Very Few

Jesus said that few enter into the narrow gate which leads to life (Matthew 7:13-14).

Even fewer go deeper with God into the second and third phases of walking with Him (see John 3 and 4).

And very, very few enter into the fourth phase: the anointing.

The Anointing: the Presence of Jesus

Jesus offers to fellowship with.

Let's remember: God's offer of Himself is the greatest offer to mankind. And fellowship with Him is the deepest reality of knowing Him.

Jesus said: "Behold, I stand at the door [of your innermost being] and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me" (Revelation 3:20).

The Anointing . . . the Priceless Treasure

Jesus also spoke about this fellowship and the anointing in a parable. He said: "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field" (Matthew 13:44).

The Fourth Phase of a Walk with Jesus

Jesus spoke about the anointing when He revealed the fourth phase of a walk with God: "If

anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his innermost being will flow rivers of living water" (John 7:37-38, NKJV, NAS).

Man Determines How Deep He Goes with God

God Created Man into His Own Image and Likeness

The truth that God created man into His own image is truly glorious and eternally profound.

One aspect: God has given man a free will. God will not make anyone do anything, not even believers.

The famous verse "Choose you this day whom you will serve" (Joshua 24:15) reveals that man has a complete free will.

Therefore – and remember the following is a glorious truth – a person determines their relationship with God and how deep they go with Him.

Tragically, most people do not even begin a relationship with the only true God.

We have all missed the mark of a true walk with God. The wonderful news is that God is merciful and patient with us. We can begin anew with Him if we repent and come to Him in humility and with a broken and contrite spirit.

Key: Repentance

The first thing recorded that Jesus said in His ministry was repent: "From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand' (Matthew 4:17).

Knowing God

Knowing God is the greatest privilege for mankind.

Just knowing Him or seeing Him for one second would be the greatest privilege.

Yet, He offers Himself to man for eternity. His promises and offers to man are so glorious, wonderful, vast and infinitely more, human words can never express them.

He is so glorious and wonderful, human words cannot express Him.

Four Phases of a Walk with God through Jesus Christ

Jesus revealed the four phases in John:

Four Phases:

1. Born Again (John 3:3)
2. Born of Water and the Spirit (John 3:5-8)
3. Drink Living Water, It Becomes a Fountain Springing Up Into Everlasting Life (John 4:13-14)

4. Come to Jesus, Drink the Living Water, Believe in Him, Rivers of Living Water Will Flow Out of Your Innermost Being (John 7:37-38)

Sadly, most believers stay in the very first phase and do not go deeper.

Again, the key is meeting the Holy Spirit. If someone does not meet Him, they will not be interested in the things of God.

More Misconceptions

It is also very sad that most people, including Christians, are in dead religion.

Most people view "Christianity" and "Catholicism" as boring, dry, dull, complicated, inhibiting, for weak people and so forth. From their perspective, it is the last thing they want to do!

All these misconceptions are the opposite of a true walk with God. He created man to know and walk with Him forever, starting on earth, continuing forever in heaven.

The key is meeting the glorious Holy Spirit. When someone meets and knows Him, He is the only thing they will want and desire.

Why do these misconceptions exist? Likely it is a combination of man's frailty, the world's influence, sin, and the enemies' deception.

What a glorious privilege it is to know the only true God! What a glorious blessing it is to belong to Jesus!

Revelation 5:

“And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. 2 Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, ‘Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?’ 3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.

4 So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. 5 But one of the elders said to me, ‘Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.’

6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying:

'You are worthy to take the scroll,
And to open its seals;
For You were slain,
And have redeemed us to God by Your blood
Out of every tribe and tongue and people and
nation,

10 And have made us kings and priests to our
God;

And we shall reign on the earth.'

11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of
many angels around the throne, the living crea-
tures, and the elders; and the number of them
was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thou-
sands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice:

'Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
To receive power and riches and wisdom,
And strength and honor and glory and bless-
ing!'

13 And every creature which is in heaven and
on the earth and under the earth and such as
are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard
saying:

'Blessing and honor and glory and power
Be to Him who sits on the throne,
And to the Lamb, forever and ever!'

14 Then the four living creatures said, 'Amen! And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever" (Revelation 5).