

## TWO OPPOSING LAWS

"The Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death." These two laws were ordained and set in operation by the Lord, though widely separated in the time of their establishment. They are so entirely opposite to each other, that they cannot work in the same person both of them at the same time. If one is working the other is being quenched.

The law of sin and death has been working in man continuously ever since the fall of Adam. Death obtains its ability to work, through sin. This is a penalty, a destructive power of death, causing in some degree, diminution or cessation of life, dissolution or dissolving of life. This process and its culmination in complete death is described in James 1,15: "Lust, when it hath conceived beareth sin: and sin when it is full grown, bringeth forth death." R. V. "Then the passion conceives and becomes the parent of sin, and sin, when fully matured, gives birth to death." Weymouth.

It should be understood that death is a process culminating in an act, rather than a single act. Death is constantly working in our physical bodies. Its activities are increased when sickness or disease or accident are present. The laws, means and methods of the working of death powers have been mostly unknown or not understood. They cannot for the most part be discovered by human science. Scientific investigation and research make little progress. They do, however, lie in the realm of the spiritual, and therefore may be revealed by the Spirit.

It has been stated that a literal translation of Genesis 2:17 would read "In the day that thou eatest thereof, dying thou shalt surely die." This implies that by disobeying the command, there will be brought into your bodies a process of death, and into spirit and soul also, which will finally cause you to die or separate spirit and body, closing your earthly career. This happened to Adam, and this law, or process of death, became operative in the whole race, and still is operative. Processes of decay, death and dissolution constantly go on in our bodies. "There is no discharge in that war." "Death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Ecclesiastes 8:8: Romans 5.

As death is the penalty attached to sin, the continuing in sin constantly tends to death of spirit, soul and body. As sin in its very essence is being out of relationship with God and His laws, it follows there can be no remedy invented by man. He cannot deliver himself. God must act and man must come to God's way. Man is utterly and hopelessly doomed, unless God comes to his rescue.

In the crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus there was no corruption, decay or disintegration. Thus Jesus overcame death, destroying Satan's death power. Thus Christ set up a New Law of the Spirit of Life. This law becomes operative in one receiving the Holy Spirit. Operation in this Life Law is limited and controlled by walking in the Spirit. The closer the walk the more powerful the working of the Life Law.

So God of High Heaven in His very great love, pity and mercy, set up the Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus. This Law of Life in its operation in man, when given full sway will crowd out, destroy and cause to disappear every vestige of death in man: Spirit, soul and body.

Every motive, thought, word, and act in man having its origin in or being caused by man's volition, is physical, soulish or carnal. It is an activity of this law of sin and death. It has a death tendency. It is independent of God and separated from God. Every motive, thought, word or act originating within man by the motion of the Holy Spirit, is an activity of the Law of the Spirit of Life, and there is in connection with it a life tendency towards increase of life.

The sinner knows not the working of these laws. Saved men know but little of them either. The one who has received the Gift of the Spirit may come to know and understand the workings of these laws within. There is though a scanty understanding of these things everywhere; but they are to be revealed, discovered and understood, that the sons of God and spiritual advancement may come in these end times.

There is a recuperative power of principle or law in nature that is part of the creation and operates in its place, but it is with this redemptive Law of the Spirit of Life that we have concern. Under its leadings the sons of God come forth and are developed. To learn how to cooperate

with and live in the movings of this Life Law is of highest importance, if we are to become fully developed sons of God, attain end time privileges, be full overcomers, enter the Bride company, and be translated in our house from Heaven.

The hand of God is outstretched to assist those, the called according to His purpose, that they may enter these privileges and sons of God state. They are quite new to us and beyond human ability to attain, but God is able and willing. He declares, "Some must enter in." Even as I am being given to write these lines, I am being carried forward and upward in the Spirit, and so will you, if you have an ear to hear the Spirit speaking to you.

If the Spirit of Life stays or dwells in one, then He says, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." 3 John 2

"But if Christ is in you, though your body must die because of sin yet your Spirit has life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of Him who raised up Jesus from the dead is dwelling in you, He who raised up Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies, because of His Spirit who dwells in you." "Therefore it is not to your lower natures that we are under obligation that we should live by their rule. For if you so live, death is near; but if under the sway of the Spirit, you are putting your old bodily habits to death you shall live." Romans 8:12, 13. This is a plain teaching that if we attain to the power of the Spirit that raised Jesus Christ from the dead, we shall not die but shall live. We shall be made to live by the resurrection power of the Spirit. Moffatt adds in verse 23, "But even we ourselves, who have the Spirit as a foretaste of the future, even we sigh deeply to ourselves as we wait for the redemption of the body that means our full sonship."

In Ephesians 1:10-23, Paul, by the Spirit, sets forth that we have only received the "earnest of the Spirit," or the earnest of our inheritance. This is to last until "the redemption of the purchased possession." Paul then offers a miracle prayer of intercession, that the eyes of their understanding be enlightened to know the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and to know the working of His power which He wrought in Christ when He raised Him from the dead. This power of resurrection



is soon to burst forth in the revelation of the sons of God.

To those who will set their hearts to respond to this call of God, there is abundant aid at hand. You will find God waiting to give every needed assistance. "He waits to be gracious." Some circumstances may seem undesirable, but in the end they will be seen to be highly beneficial and wisely planned by God. If the Lord took away all that is trying, difficult or perplexing, "Where would the cross be? Where would the fight? In the hardness He gives to you chances of proving what He can do." Not to taunt us, but to develop in us stalwart character, dependable qualities—this is why the furnace.

THE END TIME PRIVILEGES are so exceeding great, surpassing all that has arisen in the mind of man. They have been written in the Scriptures, but are veiled to those without revelation by the Spirit. It may be that seemingly many good people will cry, "Fanaticism." Nevertheless God's purposes and plans are ripening fast and will come to pass in spite of the unbelief of man.

"We have a house from Heaven." It is soon coming down. Prepare to receive it. "He who hath wrought us for this selfsame purpose is God; who also hath given us the earnest of the Spirit." Who will be satisfied with the earnest payment when the full inheritance is at hand? The earnest and the inheritance are pointed out and differentiated in a number of passages. 2 Cor. 5:5; 1 Pet. 1:4, 13; Rom. 8:23; Col. 3:24; Eph. 1:14.

God has also said, "There shall be no more death. Neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away." Revelation 21:4. Elsewhere the ways by which this is brought about are explained. God has ways of working. It is not by a single act independent of man, though God could do this if He chose. He has chosen and ordained that these things should be wrought through man and by "The obedience of faith." The power of God in connection with faith wrought in man will see things of God wrought in mighty ways.

Be a whole burnt offering, yield to a living sacrifice, and entire crucifixion, being taught, led, controlled and impelled by the Holy Spirit in full, and this Life Law will operate in you till you are a revealed son. This Law of the Spirit of Life will never cease to operate. It will annul and stop death working till death be cast into the lake of fire, and there will

be no more death, decay, pain, crying or sorrow. Herein is a description of the way God takes to bring to pass His act, His strange act. Isaiah 28:21.

"According to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, but is

now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour, Jesus Christ who hath abolished death and hath brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel." 2 Timothy 1:9, 10.

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## THE CROSS

A COMMENCEMENT THESIS

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Christians do not enter into the unutterable glories of a Christian life, until they learn to glory in the Cross of Christ. The Cross is the only way to God. Calvary's amazing consummation is still humanity's only hope. The Cross is sufficient to demolish a universe of sin. One need but to expose the cancer of his sin to the radium of the Cross, for the Cross is sufficient to swallow up all in complete victory. There are at least six points that I would like to dwell upon concerning the Cross.

### 1. The Cross and the Scriptures

We will never understand the Scriptures until we come to realize that the language of the Holy Writ is built upon the Cross. The Bible derives its truest meaning from the Cross. To leave the Cross out would be like taking every drop of water from the face of the earth, or the sun from the skies. The Old Testament only comes into its own and fulfills its truest mission, when from the peaks of prophetic literature and symbols, it sheds light upon life's stormy sea, pointing a sin-cursed humanity to Calvary's harbor. From Genesis to Revelation there is one outstanding theme: "Redemption by the Death on the Tree." New Testament writers affirm that the truest and deepest meaning of the Old is found in its prophetic rays converging at Calvary. The Word is our mirror, and Calvary is our victory or cleansing power.

### 2. The Cross and Christ

The Cross stood before creation. In the mind of God, it was planned and ready for actual undertaking. Through the ages that transpired before the birth of Jesus in everything that was made, in everything that was spoken, in all the symbols, ceremonies, and rites, the Cross stood prefigured. Everything pointed in one way or another towards Calvary. We cannot get close to the Christ of the four Gospels without realizing that foremost in His thoughts was the Tree that stood at the end of the road.

Before His ministry stood the Cross, and at the end of His ministry stood the Cross.

Just as the curtain of the times was pulled back, we see Christ on the shores of Galilee. As He approaches the banks of the river Jordan, we hear a voice that proclaims the beginning of His ministry. John, lifting up His voice said, "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world." (John 1:29). Lamb, in the Old Testament, usually stood for sacrifice. There were many names that John could have called Jesus, but why Lamb of God? The reason was that John must have had a revelation of Christ's real purpose in coming to earth. Not only this, but he was also prophesying the death of the Messiah.

At the end of Christ's ministry we see the plan of God in actual operation. The Cross of Christ expressed in a brief phrase the entire power and blessing of the death of our Lord for our redemption: the subject of His preaching; the hope and glory of His life. Our Lord teaches us that, neither for Him nor for His disciples, does the bearing of the Cross begin when a material cross is laid upon the shoulders. No! He carried the Cross all through His life. Then, dying on the Cross as a Mediator, He obtained a life of glory. As the believer is united to Him and receives His life, he receives a life that, through the Cross, has overthrown the power of sin. Henceforth, we can say, "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For in that Christ died, He died unto sin, in that He liveth He liveth unto God. Likewise reckon yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God, through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:6, 7, 10, 11).

On the Cross, Christ was hanging as the fulfillment of all Scripture. At that moment He was opening the