

The End of All Strife

By John C. Kucera

Christ has brought us into His relationship with God by new birth. The new birth, being born again, is all about Christ bringing all those who are born of God into His relationship with God. This is declared throughout the entire Bible.

Let's look at some words in Hebrews that declare that our salvation is all about being brought into Christ's relationship with God. Hebrews 6:13-20, "For when God made promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no greater, *He* swore by Himself, saying, "**Surely** in blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply you." And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men truly swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is to them **an end of all strife**. In this way desiring to declare more fully to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, God interposed by an oath, so that by two immutable things, in which *it was* impossible for God to lie, we might have a **strong consolation**, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before *us*, which *hope* **we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast**, and which enters into that within the veil, where the Forerunner has entered for us, *even* Jesus, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."

Hebrews 7:24-25, "but He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore **He is able also to save to the uttermost those who come unto God by Him**, since *He* ever lives to make intercession for them." Hebrews 9:28, "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation." Taken in context, the second appearing referred to here is the spirit of Christ coming into someone's soul when they are born again. Being born of God, we enter into a salvation without sin. We enter into Christ. Unless you are born again, born from above, born of God, Jesus says that you cannot enter or see the kingdom of God (John 3:3,5), but when you are born again, you immediately enter into the kingdom of God. Colossians 1:13, "*For He* has delivered us from the power of darkness and has

translated *us* into the kingdom of His dear Son..."

These scriptures in Hebrews are referring to the great salvation wherein Christ has brought us into His relationship with God. Paul the apostle in Ephesians 3:18-21 is saying the same, "...may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth and length and depth and height, and to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge, that you might be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do **exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us**, to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, forever. Amen." And again in Ephesians 1:3, "Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ..." All spiritual blessings pertain to Christ bringing "whosoever will" into His eternal relationship with God.

John 17 is all about this very same thing. Note here how important it is to Jesus that his disciples know that He was sent and came out from God. John 17:8, "For I have given to them the Words which You gave Me, and they have received *them* and have known surely that I came out from You. And they have believed that You sent Me." This is so important because Jesus is going to bring them into His relationship with God the Father before the world was. That is why the book of John starts out with , "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in *the* beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and without Him not even one *thing* came into being that has come into being." Jesus is the only one that was ever born of man who could say, "And now Father, glorify Me with Yourself with the glory which I had with You before the world was." (John 17:5) In Ephesians 1:4-6 we read, "according as He chose us in Him before *the* foundation of *the* world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to *the* praise of *the* glory of His grace, in which He has made us accepted in the *One* having been loved." It was determined before the foundation of the world that Christ's unique, one and only, relationship with God would be shared with all those who would receive

Him. This word "chosen" refers to John 17:10, "And all Mine are Yours, and Yours *are* Mine; and I am glorified in them." It was predetermined that whosoever would receive Him would be brought into His relationship with the Father. God would choose them: "...**all Mine are Yours, and Yours *are* Mine...**"

Just a note here on these words "**chosen**" and "**predestinated**" in Ephesians and "**whosoever will**" in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, **that whoever believes in Him** should not perish but have everlasting life." I firmly believe that salvation is a "whosoever will" salvation. "He was in the world, and the world came into being through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to *His* own, and *His* own received Him not. But as many as received Him, He gave to them authority to become the children of God, to those who believe on His name, who were born, not of bloods, nor of *the* will of *the* flesh, nor of *the* will of man, but *were born* of God." (John 1:10-13) The presence of Jesus alone drew many unto Himself automatically, but not all drawn received Him. For example, Pontius Pilate was drawn unto Jesus, but nobody can positively say whether he eventually received Him as his Savior before he died. The whole nation of Israel was drawn unto Him, but only some received Him. They were predestined to receive Him, but many reject Him. The Gentiles were predestined to receive Him, and many did receive Him then and do now, but many reject Him. But whosoever receives Him is chosen: "...**all Mine are Yours, and Yours *are* Mine...**" Chosen for what purpose? "...that they be one, even as We are one..." (John 17:22)

Jesus says in John 17:13, "And now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world that they might have **My joy fulfilled in them.**" This same joy is referenced in Hebrews 12:2, "looking to Jesus the Author and Finisher of *our* faith, who for **the joy that was set before Him** endured *the* cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right of the throne of God." What was the joy that was set before Jesus? What is that same joy fulfilled in us? "...that they may be one, as We are one..." Jesus brings us into His relationship with the Father. John 17:21-26, "**that they all may be one**, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I

in You, **that they also may be one in Us**, so that the world may believe that You have sent Me. And I have given them the glory which You have given Me, **that they may be one, even as We are one, I in them, and You in Me, that they may be made perfect in one**; and that the world may know that You have sent Me and have loved them as You have loved Me. Father, I desire that *those* whom You have given Me, that they may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me, **for You have loved Me before *the foundation of the world*. O righteous Father**, indeed the world has not known You; but I have known You, and these have known that You have sent me. **And I made known to them Your name, and will make *it* known, so that the love *with* which You have loved Me may be in them, and I in them.**” It is plain to see that his intention is to bring us into **His relationship** with the Father.

Our salvation is truly a salvation to the uttermost. This is said in many ways throughout the Scripture. In Galatians 3:26-29 we read, “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many as were **baptized into Christ, you put on Christ**. There cannot be Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is no male nor female; **for you are all one in Christ Jesus**. And if you *are* Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise.” 1Corinthians 12:13, “For also by one Spirit we are **all baptized into one body**, whether Jews or Greeks, whether bond or free, even all were made to drink into one Spirit.” 1Corinthians 12:25, “**that there not be division in the body**, but *that* the members should have the same care for one another.”

When are we baptized into Christ? When we are born of God. When we passed from death unto life. John 5:24, “Truly, truly, I say to you, He who hears My Word and believes on Him who sent Me has everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation, but has passed from death to life.” Again, Colossians 1:13, “*For He* has delivered us from the power of darkness and has translated *us* into the kingdom of His dear Son...” And Ephesians 2:4-8, “But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love *with* which He loved us (**even when we were dead in sins**) has

made us alive together with Christ (by grace you are saved), and has raised us up together and made us sit together in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace you are saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, *it is the gift of God...*” The new birth immediately brings us into His relationship with God.

That is exactly what Paul is declaring in Ephesians 2:13-22, “But now in Christ Jesus you who were once afar off are made near by the blood of Christ. **For He is our peace, He making us both one**, and *He* has broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*, having abolished in His flesh the enmity (the Law of commandments *contained* in ordinances) so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, making peace *between them*; **and so that He might reconcile both to God in one body by the cross**, having slain the enmity in Himself. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off, and to those who were near. **For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father**. Now therefore you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being *the* chief cornerstone, in whom every building having been fitly framed together, grows into a holy sanctuary in the Lord; in whom you also are built together for a dwelling place of God through *the* Spirit.” “**For He is our peace, He making us both one...**” is **the end of all strife** that is declared in Hebrews Chapter 6.

Paul is saying the same thing again in Romans 6. Look at Verses 10 and 11, “For in that He died, He died to sin once; but in that He lives, He lives to God. **Likewise count** yourselves also to be truly dead to sin, but alive to God through Jesus Christ our Lord.” In Christ, our relationship with God is Christ. In Christ, as He is unto the Father, so are we. He is dead indeed unto sin and alive unto God, so we are dead indeed unto sin and alive unto God. Since it is so, reckon it so. That is what Paul is saying in Colossians 3:3-4, “For you died, and your life has

been hidden with Christ in God. When Christ our Life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.” As far as God is concerned, Christ is our life, relationship with Him, right from the get go. That is the power of being born of God without any of man's help. John 1:12-13, “But as many as received Him, He gave to them authority to become the children of God, to those who believe on His name, who were born, not of bloods, nor of *the* will of *the* flesh, nor of *the* will of man, but *were born* of God.” Salvation to the uttermost!

This relationship in type and shadow in the Old Testament was God's relationship with Israel. Exodus 4:22, “And you shall say to Pharaoh, Thus says the Lord: **Israel is My son, My first-born.**” The whole nation of Israel was summed up in the high priest. This is a type and shadow of the reality that was to come with the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ the Lord. Jesus' prayer in John 17 and His accomplishment of that prayer in His death, burial, and resurrection whereby He actually became the eternal substance and evidence of what He did at the cross and brought His relationship with God right into the very soul of a believer who is born again is the fulfillment of “Israel is My son, My first-born.”

In the New Testament it is described this way in Ephesians 1:22-23, “And He has put all *things* under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all *things* to the church, which is His body, **the fullness of Him who fills all in all.**” He is the full definition of His body. His body is only defined by Him.

This is why Christ in you is the full assurance of glory. Colossians 1:27, “*For to them* God would make known what *are* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the nations, **which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.**” That is why Christ in us is the treasure in the earthen vessel. 2Corinthians 4:7, “**But we have this treasure in earthen vessels,** so that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.” What a treasure that is! Paul never got over the excitement of the significance of this treasure: Christ as our relationship with God. Christ brought us into His relationship with God right when we were born again as the gift

of God. That is why Paul could declare to the church in Colossians 2:10, **“And you are complete in Him**, who is the Head of all principality and power.”

It is important to note here that when I say that we are brought into His relationship with God, I am not in any way insinuating that we become God, or take the place of Jesus, or become the way, truth and life that only He Himself is. We can experience, enjoy, and declare the way, the truth, and the life, but we can never become the way, the truth, and the life that only Christ Himself forever is. Paul explains this oneness that Jesus is praying for in John 17 this way in 1Corinthians 1:29-31, “so that no flesh should glory in His presence. **But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who of God is made to us wisdom and righteousness and sanctification and redemption**; so that, according as it is written, He who glories, let him glory in *the* Lord.” Christ is **made unto us His relationship with God** and that right when we are born again: **“But of Him you are in Christ Jesus ...”** Without Christ, we have nothing. With Him and in Him we are blessed with all spiritual blessings by being brought into His relationship with God.

The question arises concerning what is our personal relationship with God now that Christ is our relationship with God? My answer to that is that Christ is now our personal relationship with God. The Person Himself has made Himself to be our personal relationship with God at all times, in good times and bad times, in sickness and in health, in rich times and poor times. At all times and in all places, our personal relationship with God never changes because He Himself is our personal relationship with God in us at all times. He has made Himself to be both the **substance and the evidence** of our personal relationship with God and He is the same yesterday, today and forever. This is what Paul is getting at when he states at the end of Romans Chapter 8, “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, **shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**”

The love of God in Christ is that Christ in us right now has been made and **is** our eternal personal relationship with God. "...the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."

Jesus says in Matthew 11:28-30, "Come to Me all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke on you and learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you shall find rest to your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light." When we come to Jesus and are born of God, Jesus immediately brings us into His relationship with God totally independent of our complete understanding of what has actually taken place. When we learn of Him, we see and know, "Wow! He has actually brought us into His relationship with the Father right when we are saved." That seeing and knowing, the experiencing of His relationship with God, is an ongoing, eternal adventure that never ends.

"So that if any one *is* in Christ, *that one is* a new creature; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. And all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given to us the ministry of reconciliation; whereas God was in Christ reconciling *the* world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and putting the word of reconciliation in us. Then we are ambassadors on behalf of Christ, as God exhorting through us, we beseech *you* on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For He has made Him who knew no sin, *to be* sin for us, that we might become *the* righteousness of God in Him." (2Corinthians 5:17-21)

"But *as* God is true, our word toward you was not yes and no. For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us; by me and Silas and Timothy; was not yes and no, but in Him was, yes! For all the promises of God in Him *are* yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God by us." (2Corinthians 1:18-20)

The Lord bless all these many words to our hearts in the Person of Himself, Amen.