

RESTORATION

BY KEITH GREER

When God created this world, He already had a plan for restoring sinful men back to Himself. God knew that along with man's freedom to choose came the risk that he could choose unwisely. Knowing that man could sin and would sin, God provided a way for him to choose to be restored to the fellowship that was broken when he sinned. God planned to accomplish this restoration through Christ. *"And to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord."* {Ephesians 3:9-11} Let us look more closely at exactly what God accomplished in Christ.

New Creature. *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."* {2 Corinthians 5:17}

No Condemnation. *"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."* {Romans 8:1}

God's Child. *"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."* {Galatians 3:26,27}

Redeemed. *"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace."* {Ephesians 1:7}

All Spiritual Blessings. *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ."* {Ephesians 1:3}

Membership in His kingdom. *"He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love."* {Colossians 1:13}

Only Way to the Father. *"Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."* {John 14:6}

A Way to Overcome Temptation. *"Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."* {1 Corinthians 10:12,13}

Freedom to Address God as Our Father. *"Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name."* {Matthew 6:8,9}

Forgiveness of sins. *"In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins."* {Colossians 1:14} One can clearly see that all spiritual benefits can only be found in Christ. Restoration is necessary because we have all sinned and the wages of that conduct is death, *Romans 3:23; 6:23*. Dear reader, have you been restored to the Father in heaven? ***