

Mankind Will Be Transformed, Renewed, and Refreshed

(Copyright ©OneTruthOneLaw.com 2021)

The physical creation, including mankind, is currently in a state of corruption (decay) with no obvious hope this process will be reversed. However, the word of God declares that this situation is temporary and only necessary until the problem of sin is resolved.

*Every one who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; **sin is lawlessness** (1Jn. 3:4; RSV; emphasis added).*

*For **the wages of sin is death**... (Rom. 6:23a; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise stated; emphasis added).*

*So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "**Death is swallowed up in victory**" (1Cor. 15:54; cf. Isa. 25:6-8).*

When sin is finally eliminated, the family of Almighty God can be reconciled and live forever in harmony and happiness.

*For the creation was subjected to futility (SGD 3153; depravity, perverseness), **not willingly**, but because of Him who subjected it in hope (2Pet. 3:9b); ²¹because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption (decay) into the glorious liberty (freedom from everlasting death) of the children of God (Rom. 8:20-21; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).*

In Romans 8:20, the apostle Paul explained that Almighty God allowed "futility" to occur, even though He was not enthusiastic about it. The alternative would mean forcing people to obey

His word, even if it was against their will. This latter scenario would remove everyone's freedom to make their own choice between doing what God said is "right", or deciding to reject God's definition of what is "right" and then "doing what they think is right".

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death (Prov. 14:12; cf. 16:25).

However, this freedom to choose had inherent consequences if the choice was contrary to God's word, as summarized by His law and commandments.

*For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness (cf. Ps. 119:172). ²¹What fruit did you have then in **the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death** (Rom. 6:21; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

Mankind's first parents were taught the difference between right and wrong, according to God's definition, and the consequences of disobeying the commands of their Creator were also explained. Nonetheless, they were free to choose.

*And **the Lord God commanded the man**, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for **in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die**" (Gen. 2:16-17; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).*

The scenario in Genesis 2:16-17 did not involve literal trees or the consumption of physical food. Instead, the use of the word "tree", or "trees" is figurative language meant to represent angels who serve Almighty God (see studies: "What Tree Did Eve Eat From"; "The Tree of Life and River of Living Water"; "The Garden of God").

These same angels could provide useful information that would help Adam and Eve make better decisions in their life. In other words, they would be “eating” of God’s word in their conversations with these angels.

Your (God’s) **words were found, and I** (Jeremiah) **ate them....** (Jer. 15:16a; emphasis added).

*But you, son of man (Ezekiel), hear what I (God) say to you. Do not be rebellious like that rebellious house (of Israel); **open your mouth and eat what I give you.** ⁹Now when I looked, there was a hand stretched out to me; and behold, **a scroll of a book** was in it. ¹⁰Then He spread it before me; and **there was writing on the inside and on the outside**, and written on it were lamentations and mourning and woe (Eze. 2:8-10; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).*

*Moreover He said to me, “Son of man, eat what you find; **eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.**”²So I opened my mouth, and He caused me to eat that scroll. ³And He said to me, “Son of man, feed your belly, and fill your stomach with this scroll that I give you.” So I ate it, and it was in my mouth like honey in sweetness. ⁴And He said to me: “Son of man, go to the house of Israel and **speak with My words to them** (Eze. 3:1-4; emphasis added).*

So it was out of love for Adam and Eve that the Lord God wanted them to eat from the trees that represented angels who were obedient to His word (Gen. 2:16). On the other hand, the Lord God wanted them to avoid eating from “the tree of the knowledge of good evil” because this tree represented Satan whose cunning lies and deceptions would lead to their death (Gen. 3:1; Jn. 8:44).

At this point in their development, they had neither the skill or experience to accurately discern the ulterior motives of someone like Satan. However, if they trusted God’s word and obeyed it, they would have been safe from any harm. Sadly, they chose to trust the word of someone who was their mortal enemy, and eventually died as a consequence.

*But solid food belongs to those who are of full age (mature), that is, **those who by reason of use** (practice) **have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil** (Heb. 5:14; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).*

Nothing has fundamentally changed since the time of Adam and Eve because mankind, as a whole, still trusts in Satan’s value system, and marches to his tune, instead of trusting and obeying every word of God (Mt. 4:4). Consequently, the wheel of death continues to roll along and there is only one way to stop it. How this will be achieved is the focus of the remainder of this study.

As the singer/songwriter Joni Mitchell said, “we’ve got to get ourselves back to the garden.” In reality however, it is not within our power to do this. Instead, it is only through the work of Almighty God, in concert with his Son Jesus Christ, that anyone can have the opportunity of doing things differently. Per Hebrews 5:14, Adam and Eve first needed to “discern” the difference between good and evil. This included understanding that there would be a consequence for choosing evil. Specifically, anyone guilty of committing a capital offense would forfeit their life forever. To reinforce this truth, Almighty God’s representative sacrificed a clean animal whose shed blood provided a temporary reprieve for Adam and Eve (Heb. 9:22). This way their physical lives could be extended for a while longer, even though they would eventually die.

Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and **clothed them** (Gen. 3:21; emphasis added).

The word "clothed" (SHD 3846) has a dual meaning. First, it can act as a reminder of one's sins, and the shame associated with them. In other words, Adam and Eve's sin had to be covered, or "clothed over", and the death of an innocent animal would bring this to remembrance every time they put on their "tunic".

*Those who hate you **will be clothed with shame**...* (Job 8:22; emphasis added).

*Let them **be ashamed and brought to mutual confusion** who rejoice at my hurt; **let them be clothed with shame and dishonor** who magnify themselves against me* (Ps. 35:26; emphasis added).

Let my accusers be clothed with shame,** and let them cover themselves with shame, and **let them cover themselves with their own disgrace as with a mantle (Ps. 109:29; emphasis added).

The second lesson involves reminding the sinner that "salvation" (everlasting life) will be provided by the clothing of a sinless sacrifice, which the death of Jesus Christ ultimately fulfills.

*Now therefore, arise, O Lord God, to Your resting place, You and the ark of Your strength. **Let Your priests, O Lord God, be clothed with salvation**...* (2Chr. 6:41a; emphasis added).

***I will also clothe her priests with salvation**...* (Ps. 132:16a; emphasis added).

*I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for **He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of***

righteousness... (Isa. 61:10a; emphasis added).

*And to her (Christ's future bride) it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for **the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints*** (Rev. 19:8; cf. Ps. 132:9; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Therefore, sacrificing a "clean" animal acted as a reminder of one's sins and that these sins could be forgiven, except in capital offenses that carried an immediate death penalty (Lev. 5:4-18; 6:1-7). However, because of our self-centered carnal mind we are going to re-offend (Rom. 7:14-25; 8:5-8). Consequently, it would take the shed blood of a sinless person to "cloth over" one's sins on a permanent basis, but this would require intervention from Almighty God in order to get to the heart of the problem. This will be examined after reviewing some scriptures explaining the reason for, but also the limitations of, the animal sacrificial system.

*For the law (of animal sacrifice), having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, **can never with these same sacrifices,** which they offer continually year by year, **make those who approach perfect.*** ²*For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purged (cleansed), would have had no more consciousness of sins (would not consider sinning; SGD 4893/4894).* ³*But **in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.*** ⁴*For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins (forever) (Heb. 10:1-4; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).*

Therefore the law (of animal sacrifice) was our tutor (guardian responsible for the care and discipline of the children) to bring us to (understand the sacrifice of) Christ, that we might be justified by faith (trust in God's

word). ²⁵*But after faith has come (from Almighty God to us), we are no longer under a tutor (because we deeply want to trust and obey every word of God; cf. Mt. 4:4) (Gal. 3:24-25; Ed. notes in parentheses).*

Before sin can be removed forever, there must be a new attitude toward God and His law. To begin with, a connection must be made between God's law and His love for mankind. Specifically, that Almighty God created His law and commandments for the benefit of everyone. Consequently, obedience to them creates harmony and happiness within the family of God.

*For **this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.** And His commandments are not (regarded as) burdensome (1Jn. 5:3; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

*Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵But **whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him.** By this we know that we are in Him (1Jn. 2:3-5; emphasis added).*

The bottom line is that mankind, of and by itself, will not change the impulses that come naturally to the carnal mind. Therefore, any hope for our collective well-being has to come from Almighty God. Without His intervention, the cycle of everlasting death will continue unabated.

*For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life (everlasting) and peace. ⁷Because **the carnal mind is enmity (hostile) against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.** ⁸So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God (Rom. 8:6-8; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).*

As mentioned previously in this study, Adam and Eve were free to make their own choices about what is right and wrong. However, by rejecting God's word and deciding to believe that Satan's value system is preferable to God's, they separated themselves from "the truth", which was represented (figuratively) by "the tree of life".

*So He (the Lord God) drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, **to guard the way to the tree of life** (Gen. 3:24; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

Therefore, mankind as a whole is separated from Almighty God's truth unless, and until, He leads them to see the serious consequences of their sinful actions. When Almighty God decides to reveal this truth to an individual, that person will begin a process that grants access to "the tree of life", which represents Jesus Christ who shed his blood to "make the way to everlasting life possible".

***No one can come to me** (Jesus Christ; "the tree of life") **unless the Father** (Almighty God) **who sent me draws him** (or her); *and I will raise him up at the last day (Jn. 6:44; cf. 6:65; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).**

*Jesus said to her (Martha), **"I am the resurrection and the life"** (everlasting). *He who believes in me, though he may die, he shall live (Jn. 11:25; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).**

This entire process is summarized in a number of scriptures that describe the change that Almighty God initiates. This change transforms and renews the carnal so that it reflects more closely the mind of Jesus Christ (Php. 2:5).

Create in me a clean heart, O God (Almighty), and **renew a steadfast spirit within me** (Ps. 51:10; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Turn us back to You (grant us a repentant attitude), O Lord, **and we will be restored; renew our days as of old** (Lam. 5:21; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

But **we all** (eventually), *with unveiled face* (cf. 2Cor. 3:14), *beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image* (of Christ; cf. Php. 2:5) **from glory to glory** (cf. 1Cor. 15:40-49), *just as by the Spirit of the Lord* (2Cor. 3:18; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet **the inward man is being renewed day by day** (2Cor. 4:16; emphasis added).

And **be renewed in the spirit of your mind**, ²⁴*and that you put on the new man* (or woman) *which was created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness* (Eph. 4:23-24; cf. **Ps. 119:172**; emphasis added).

Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his (evil) deeds, ¹⁰*and have put on the new man* (or woman) **who is** (being) **renewed in knowledge** according to the image of Him who created him (Col. 3:9-10; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

This process of renewal and transformation from a carnal attitude to one that reflects the mind of Jesus Christ is attributed to Almighty God, who alone initiates this "refreshing".

Repent therefore and be converted (go in the opposite direction of the carnal mind), *that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of*

refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord (Almighty), ²⁰*and that He may send Christ Jesus, who was ordained for you before* (the foundation of the world; cf. Rev. 13:8) (Ac. 3:19-20; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

This "refreshing" that comes from Almighty God has always been available, but a "veil" or "separation" occurred when our forefathers decided to trust the word of Satan instead of God's word. Since this time, mankind has not experienced the peace and rest, or Sabbath, of God.

To whom He said, **"This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest,"** And, **"This is the refreshing";** yet they would not hear (Isa. 28:12; emphasis added).

Those who have heard and acted upon God's truth, are the ones currently being transformed and renewed from carnal to spiritual. Therefore, they are in the process of entering God's Sabbath rest which represents everlasting life.

For we who have believed do enter that rest... (Heb. 4:3a; emphasis added).

Those who are still under the veil, that represents Satan's many deceptions, will eventually be able to see God's truth accurately because Jesus Christ provided the means through which this veil can be removed (Heb. 10:20).

*But their minds were hardened. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because **the veil is taken away in Christ*** (2Cor. 3:14; emphasis added).

Nevertheless when one turns (repents of sin) to the Lord, the veil is (progressively) taken away (2Cor. 3:16; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Because Almighty God is not willing that any of his children perish forever, He will provide an opportunity for everyone to understand the serious consequences of their sinful conduct (2Pet. 3:9b). This is the process of "refreshing" that can renew each person's carnal mind, and gradually transform it to resemble the same mind as Jesus Christ. "Righteous Abel" was the first to benefit from this "refreshing" (Mt. 23:35), and it will continue progressively until the second resurrection, which is more than one thousand years away (1Cor. 15:20-28; cf. Rev. 20:5-10).

To protect the integrity of this document and prevent alteration and misapplication of its contents in whole or in part, this document is protected under copyright law.

Copyright: This document may be freely copied and distributed provided it is copied without alteration, addition, deletion, or changes, and includes the name of the publisher and this copyright. Quotations may be taken from this document provided the name of the publisher is cited.

All Rights Reserved
(Copyright ©OneTruthOneLaw.com 2021)