

THE RIGHTEOUS PURSUES HOLINESS

Chapter 1 Lesson 3

Chapter's Subject: Clothed in Christ's Righteousness

Today's Study: Additional Information

By "Additional Information" means I am presenting extra or supplementary information in regards to areas discussed in this chapter (chapter 1); some brief repetition will occur for emphasis. In this lesson (lesson 3), I will be presenting additional information on (1) Terms we use in discussing the experience of salvation (brief discussion on selected terms), (2) Brief discussion on Eph. 6:11-17 under the subject "Clothed in Christ", (3) Briefly discussing what it means to be "Created in the Image and Likeness of God".

A. Briefly Defining Some Terms Used in Discussing the Experience of Salvation

1. SIN/REPENTANCE

(a) **Sin** . . . As discussed in previous lessons: **sin** is a violation of the moral law of God (1 John 3:4; 5:17).

(1) Sin originates in man with "The Fall" (Gen. 3:6-13) and by his lust (James 1:13-15); etc.

(2) Sin is a universal problem (Gen. 6:5; Psa. 53:3; Isa. 53:6; Rom. 3:23; etc.).

(3) Sin consists of the acts of transgression and impurity in nature.

(4) When one does not obey the commandments of God transgression occurs.

(5) Disobedience may take the form of sins of omission (when we fail to do the things that we should have done) or sins of commission (when we do the things that we should not have done).

(6) Sin corrupts the personal nature which consists of mind, heart and will.

(b) **Repentance**

(1) Among the definitions used for repentance, one that is more frequently used is: "Making a u-turn from the pathway of sin to God and His righteousness".

(2) **Repentance refers to a change of mind, heart and will.**

(3) Two things are involved in repentance:

- Sorrow for sin (2Cor.7:10; Matt. 26:75).
- Stop sinning (that is you must reject sin, turn away from it, etc.) (John 8:1-11; 1 Pete 2:11; etc.).

2. JUSTIFICATION

(a) "Justification is a change of the individual's position in regards to the judgment of God and the charges of the law against him".

(b) "It is the removal of sins from the account (that is the list of charges made against the individual) of the accused".

- (c) “Justification also attributes the good deed of Christ’s life and merits of His blood to the account of the believer”.
- (d) “Justification places the believer in the position for both innocence and righteousness”.
- (e) See Acts 13:39; Rom. 5:1; 3:24-25; 1 Cor. 6:11; etc.

3. REGENERATION/NEW BIRTH

There are differences in terms and application of regeneration and new birth . . . however, they can be treated as a single experience.

(a) Regeneration

- (1) “Regeneration is the implantation of the seed of life in the believer. With the germ of this seed a new nature is formed and a new creature is born.”
- (2) “This new creation is created in righteousness and true holiness”.
- (3) Allow me to expand on the thought just a little: regeneration is a recreating of spiritual life in the human heart (Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:2-24) by the Holy Spirit (John 3:6; Titus 3:5).

(b) New Birth

- (1) “Born again” as used I John 3:3 carry the meaning of: to regenerate, beget, be born, conceive, delivered, etc.
- (2) In John 3:8, Jesus discusses this fundamental doctrine: **spiritual birth or regeneration.**
- (3) The new birth is the quickening from death in trespasses and sin.
- (4) According to Eph. 4:2-24 **the new birth renews the mind.**
- (5) By comparing these two terms, “regeneration” and “new birth” you can see why they can be treated as a single experience.

Now that you have seen the similarities between regeneration and the new birth; I will present a brief comparison between “justification” and regeneration”

JUSTIFICATION	REGENERATION
Justification changes man’s position in relation to judgment.	Regeneration changes man’s nature in relation to righteousness.
Justification imputes (<i>ascribe; to credit to; etc.</i>) the righteousness of God	Regeneration imparts the righteousness of God.
Freedom from condemnation is the result of justification.	The new man is created in righteousness and true holiness

“The instrument by which these experiences are claimed is faith in Jesus Christ as He is presented in the Word of God.”

KEEP THESE SUMMARIZED THOUGHTS IN MIND:

Repentance refers to a change of mind, heart and will (or man's personal nature)

The new birth renews the mind; it is a quickening from death in trespasses and sin or a recreation of the old man.

Justification changes man's position in relation to judgment. By the mercy and grace of God we are declared not guilty because of our faith in Jesus Christ ... we use the term "**just as if I had not sinned**

Regeneration changes man's nature in relation to righteousness. It is the recreation of spiritual life in the human heart.

4. RECONCILIATION

(a) **Reconciliation is bringing into unity, harmony, or agreement what has been alienated.**

(1) According to Biblical teaching there is need for reconciliation between God and man because of the alienation between them which has its source in human sin and the righteous aversion (*aversion: an intense or definite dislike; extreme disgust; etc.*) to it, hatred of it on the part of God. (Sin separates!! Isa. 59:1-5; Psa. 66:18; etc.).

(2) The Bible teaches that God Himself has provided the means of reconciliation through the death of His Son, Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 5:18-19; Eph. 2:16; Col. 1:20).

(b) Reconciliation has a broader meaning than justification . . .

(1) The Greek word for reconciliation is taken from the socio-economic sphere (see 1 Cor. 7:11).

(2) It speaks in general of the restoration of a proper relationship between two parties.

(3) It refers broadly to overcoming enmity. In Paul's writing we see the use of enmity and alienation (Rom. 5:10; Eph. 2:14).

(4) In the positive sense, reconciliation has the meaning of "peace" (Rom. 5:1; Eph. 2:15; Col. 1:20).

5. REDEMPTION

(a) **Redemption is deliverance from the power of an alien dominion and enjoyment of the resulting freedom.**

(1) In its original sense and in its Biblical, usage, redemption is intimately associate with the idea of ransom and substitution

(2) **The heart of the biblical message of redemption is the deliverance of the people of God from the bondage of sin by the perfect substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus Christ and their consequent restoration to God and His heavenly kingdom.**

(b) Redemption Illustrated

(1) I will use the "slave market" situation to illustrate what is involved in this act of redemption.

- Visualize a slave market in session and slaves are on display for sale. Beloved, remember that sin is slavery, just as Israel was in grievous bondage in Egypt serving under a hard and heartless task master. Sin is a “dominant tyrant” but there is deliverance in Jesus Christ!

The Slave Market Session . . . this is what happens for the delivered (redeemed) soul from bondage . . . in essence a ransom was paid.

- **First:** The slave was purchased in the market.
- **Second:** He was taken out of the market.
- **Third:** He was set free!!

- I have also use the account of Lazarus being raised from the dead to further illustrate this experience of redemption (John 11:1-44).
 - **First:** Lazarus was in the grave. Jesus went to the grave site (vv. 34-38)
 - **Second:** Jesus Christ summons Lazarus to come forth out of the state of death out of the tomb (v. 44).
 - **Third:** He was loosed from the binding grave clothes... **SET FREE!!**
v.44

(2) The hymn: Redeemed How I Love to Proclaim It

First Stanza

Redeemed- how I love to proclaim it
Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb
Redeemed through His infinite mercy.
His child and forever I am.

REFRAIN

Redeemed, redeemed
Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;
Redeemed, redeemed,
His child and forever I am

The following three topics have been extensively discussed in lessons 1 and 2 (of this chapter) as well as throughout this study; as a result I will only be making highlighted comments on each.

6. SANCTIFICATION

- As discussed before, sanctification is a process that begins with the new birth and yes there is a crisis moment when this purging experience is fully realized.
- Sanctification, as used in relation to the salvation experiences refers to three changes.
 - Separation from the world unto God.
 - Purging from the pollution of sins.

- (3) Crucifying the carnal nature
- (c) To sanctify is to make a thing or person holy.
- (d) Sanctification is subsequent to the new birth.
- (e) A clean heart is the result of sanctification.

7. HOLINESS

- (a) If you need to, you may review definitions listed throughout this study. However, at this time I will have you focus on two main definitions:
 - (1) Separation (which is the primary meaning).
 - (2) Freedom from the dominion of sin.
- (b) The term holiness is defined from two stand points:
 - (1) The experience of holiness
 - (2) The practice of one’s life
- (c) As discussed before, **the best way to describe a holy life is Christlikeness.** This holy life is:
 - (1) Dedicated to Christ
 - (2) Separated from the world
 - (3) Does not practice sin
- (d) **Holiness/Righteousness . . . two aspects of one condition**

HOLINESS	RIGHTEOUSNESS
Holiness has to do with character	Righteousness has to do with conduct
Holiness describes being	Righteousness describes doing

8. BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT/SPEAKING IN TONGUES

- (a) Articles 8 and 9 from our (Church of God) Declaration of Faith
 - (1) **Article 8**
 “We believe in the baptism with the Holy Ghost subsequent to a clean heart”.
 (See Mark 1:7, 8; Acts 1:5, 8; 2:4; John 4:16-17; etc.)
 - (2) **Article 9**
 “We believe in speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance and that it is the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost”.
 (See Acts 2:4, 7, 8; 8:17-19; 10:44-46; 11:15-17; 19:5-6)
- (b) Speaking in tongues **as the Spirit gives utterance is the initial evidence of the baptism with the Holy Ghost.** “The term ‘evidence’ is used to specify that speaking in tongues is the first in order of externally observable evidences. However, it is also used to indicate that other evidences are expected to follow” (Bishop’s Study Manual)
- (c) Cleansing of the heart (sanctification) **MUST** be experienced before one receives the baptism with the Holy Spirit.
- (d) Speaking in tongues refers to either one of the languages of the world or a language in communing with God, “that the speaker does not know or naturally understand”.

B. Clothed in Christ . . . Eph. 6:11-17

*I am applying this well known passage in a slightly different setting and yet staying in context. It should be noted that when we are clothed in Christ we will be prepared both to live holy lives and be effective Christian soldiers. We are in spiritual warfare and need to be properly clothed for this confrontation. All that we need are **in Christ** the author and finisher of our faith ... the Word of God says "But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ ..." (Rom. 13:14a)*

1. Clothing is one of the essentials, which has so many benefits and varies in usage.
 - (a) Special services such as the army, police, etc. are distinguished by their uniforms and even then there are different types of uniforms and protective gears to meet particular needs.
 - (b) In general we dress according to the event and we vary in choice of dress code.
2. "Clothe" . . . "To Be Clothed"
 - (a) Brief definition as it relates in general terms
 - (1) Clothing is the thing people wear to cover their bodies.
 - (2) "Clothe" (*verb*) means
 - to cover with or as if with cloth or clothing
 - put on clothes, wear, get dress
 - etc.
 - (b) Clothing as use in the Bible can be a detailed and informative study
 - (1) For example a person was said to be naked whether he was without clothing or had thrown off his outer garment, clad in only light undergarment as with Peter (John 21:7)
 - (2) You may want to pursue such study, covering clothing, cloths, clothes, cloke (KJV usage), and coat
 - (3) **I would like to note an early account found in Genesis, see Gen. 3.**
 - **Gen.3 :21** God clothed Adam and Eve
 - Adam and Eve tried clothing themselves when they sinned (**Gen. 3:7**)
 - Man's effort will always be insufficient and futile (**Isa. 28:20**)
 - (b) Christianity is "spiritual warfare" (Eph. 6:11-17), which cannot be successfully fought without being clothed in Jesus Christ.
 - (a) Jesus Christ is the long awaited mystery the "hope of glory" our victory over Satan in this warfare. **Col. 1:27, quoting the latter part.**
 - (1) **KJV**

" . . . which is Christ in you, the hope of glory".
 - (2) **Amplified Bible**

" . . . which is Christ within and among you, the hope of [realizing the [glory."]
 - (b) **David was clothed in God, the Almighty God! The *El Shaddai* Ex. 6:2-6** (See the Goliath account I 1 Sam. 17:1-54)
 - (1) See his courageous attitude, his confidence in God (vv. 26, 29, 32)
 - (2) He was divinely protected (vv. 33-37)
 - (3) He didn't find King Saul's armor proper clothing for him (vv. 38-39)

(4) **David's victory was not based on his skills, etc. but by the "COVERING OF GOD".**

- Covered by Him who fights ALL our battles (1 Sam. 17:40-52; NB vv. 45-47)
- Covered by Him who is mighty in battle (Psa. 24:8)

4. Victory is assured for those who abide (dwell, etc.) in the presence of the Almighty God (Psa. 91).

(a) Since our warfare is spiritual and we do not use carnal weapons (2 Cor. 10:3-5), we need to be "**Clothed in Christ's Righteousness**", which means we are declared righteous in Jesus Christ (Discussed in lessons 1 and 2 of this chapter)

(b) It is being **in Christ** that we are "Created in Righteousness and True Holiness" (Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10)

(c) There is no other way to be victorious in this Christian warfare but being **in Christ**.

Victory in Jesus my Savior for ever

He sought me and bought me with His redeeming blood

He loved me ere I knew Him, and all my love is due Him

He plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood.

5. **PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOUR (Eph. 6:11-17)**

(a) Scholars vary as to the interpretation of this passage

(1) Two views which are most highly accepted are:

- **The Fist View: The armor is God's**
 - God is pictured in Isa. 59:17 as wearing armor.
 - KJV "he"
"For he put on ..."
 - NKJV "He"
"For He put on ..."
 - Amplified Bible "[the Lord]"
"For [the Lord] put on ..."
 - The Christian is invited to wear the same protection in preparation for warfare.
- **The second view: Places emphasis not upon the fact of the armor being God's but upon the element of completeness.**
 - The idea that we need not only divine equipment, but the equipment in its completeness without the lack of any part.
 - One great scholar states:
"Our foe is so formidable that we must clothe ourselves with all that God provides for our offensive and defensive struggle. Thus, we must 'put on God's complete armor'".

(2) Obviously, we do not need to choose either but accept both interpretations.

- The armor, which is the power of God, must be realized in the life of God's people completely, to be victorious in this cosmic conflict.
- The purpose of attiring in the armor of God is that there might be defense "against the wiles of the devil".

(3) Power for service . . . briefly note:

- The disciples, although commissioned to "go", had to wait until they were endowed with power from on high (Matt. 28:16-20; Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-13)
- It is not possible to receive the Holy Spirit without having Christ. Some basics we discussed before
 - Repentance is commanded of God and necessary for the forgiveness of sins (Luke 13:1-3; Acts 17:30; Rom. 3:9, 23; etc.)
 - "Born Again" is compulsory (John 3:3, 5, 6; etc.); sanctification (Rom. 6:11, 12; 2 Cor. 7:1; etc.); sanctification precedes baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5, 8; 2:4; etc.).
 - The holy life is a Christlike life and possible only because Christ abides within. Such person is clothed in Christ's righteousness.

(b) **The Armor (Eph. 6:11-17) is both Defensive and Offensive.**

(1) **AS A DEFENSIVE ARMOR**

- **The girdle of truth (Eph. 4:14)**
 - Jesus Christ is the way, **the truth**, and the life (John 14:6).
 - The girdle of truth – an enlightened understanding and a steadfast character.
 - Girdle was the "bracer up" or support of the body.
 - Truth preserves from lax (loose) views of morals, etc.
- **The breastplate of righteousness (Eph.6:14)**
 - Jesus Christ is our righteousness, as we are declared righteous **in Him**.
 - The breastplate, also known as the "coat of mail" provided protection for the body from the neck to the thigh (covering both front and back) . . . protecting the vital organs.
 - The breastplate of righteousness – a holy life to absorb criticism and persecution.
 - **"Of righteousness"**: integrity, holiness, purity of life, sincerity of piety; etc.
 - This integrity preserves from Satan's attacks . . . for example, as we have seen in the situation with Job, Christ, and others.
- **The shield of faith (Eph.6:16)**
 - My hope is built on what Christ has done for me and who He is to me. He is my perfect example of faith.
 - The shield of faith is to ward off the enemy's vicious attacks (Eph. 6:14-16)

- Oil was used to anoint the shields which made arrows and darts glanced off or rebound.
- There is more to share than we have time to discuss but note: Faith protects all, and is indispensable to the security of all, as is the case with the shield. It protects the whole body.
- Christ said faith, genuine faith as small as a mustard seed accomplishes great things (Matt. 17:20).
- Definitely, as Christians we walk by faith and not by sight.

2 Co. 5:7 Amplified Bible

“For we walk by faith [we regulate our lives and conduct ourselves by our convictions or belief respecting man’s relationship to God and divine things, with trust and holy fervor; thus we walk] not by sight or appearance”.

(2) AS AN OFFENSIVE ARMOR

- **The sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17)**
 - Jesus Christ is the Living Word (“Logos”)
 - The sword of the Spirit God’s Word in hand, stored in the heart and engraved on the mind.
 - Sword was an essential part of the armor of ancient soldiers
 - No soldier would regard himself well armed without his sword (his other weapons were bow, spear or battle axe)
 - Ancient sword was short and usually two edged.
 - “. . . **which is the Word of God**”.
 - Christ used the Word to overcome the tempter in the wilderness (Matt. 4:1-11).
 - **It is only by the Word can Satan be overcome**
 - We cannot anticipate victory if we are not armed with the Word of God (*the Word is the truth, Jesus Christ is the truth, He is our victory*)
 - We should never depend on our own reason, or rely on our own wisdom (Prov.3:5, 6). We are conquerors through Jesus Christ . . . more than conquerors the Word says (Rom. 8:31-39, NB v.37).
 - And yes, the Word of God is powerful and sharper than any two edged sword (Heb. 4:12; Rev. 1:16; 2:12).
 - Etc.
- **The feet shod . . . the gospel of peace (Eph. 6:15)**
 - Jesus Christ is our peace
 - The gospel is all about Christ (1 Co. 15:1-4); He is the “Prince of Peace” (Isa.9:6)
 - Through Christ we have peace with God (Rom. 5:1) and the peace of God (Phil. 4:7)

- Etc.
- **“And your feet shod ...”** for long, arduous marches in obedience to Christ, the Commander.
- We will not discuss the different types of foot protection, although one is referred to in this passage. Obviously, our text is making reference to protection of the feet and in some cases the protection referred to is also used to defend from danger (in particular from sharp devices or used to defend as in the situation where those foot ware had sharp nails in them to be used in battle).
- The word rendered *“preparation”* (v. 15) means readiness, fitness for, etc.
- The Christian must be ready with the gospel of peace . . .
 - They are to be equipped with the peaceful and pure gospel.
 - This will benefit them in their marches, to make them firm in the day of conflict.
- The Christians are not furnished with carnal weapons (2 Cor. 10:3-5) but with the peaceful gospel of the Redeemer.
- With such readiness they are thus sustained in their marches throughout the world
- Matt. 24:14 (KJV)**
 “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come”.
- Etc.
- **The helmet of salvation (Eph. 6:17)**
 - We are His creation (Christ’s) and as Paul states, we have the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16).
 - **“The helmet of salvation”** ... to guide and guard our thoughts that they be for Christ rather than of sinful, selfish ends.
 - The helmet was used to guard the head from a blow by a sword or a war-club, or battle-axe.
 - See 1 Thess. 5:8 . . . the idea is, that a well-founded hope of salvation will preserve us in the day of spiritual conflict, and will guard us from blows which an enemy would strike.
 - The helmet defends the head, a vital part; and so the hope of salvation will defend the soul, and keep it from the enemy.
 - **A soldier would not fight well without a hope of victory.** The Christian soldier has hope of victory and we have no reason to fight as those with no hope, we are more than conquerors through Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:7)!!!

Eph. 6:11-13 (Amplified Bible)

“Put on the **whole armor** [the armor of a heavy-armed soldier which God supplies], that you may be able successfully to stand against [all] the strategies and deceits of the devil. For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents]. But against the powers, against [the master spirits who are] the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirits forces of wickedness in heavenly (supernatural) sphere. Therefore put on **God’s complete armor**, that you may be able to resist and stand your ground on the evil day [of danger], and having done all [the crisis demands], to stand [firmly in your place]”.

I do hope the following chat will b of some help.

The Armor (Eph. 6:11-17) . . .Defensive/Offensive

DEFENSIVE	OFFENSIVE
<p>Definition: “Defensive” (adj.) (1) Used or intended to defend or protect. (2) Serving to protect (3) Made or carried on for the purpose of resisting attack. Synonyms: protective, safe guarding, etc.</p>	<p>Definition: “Offensive” (adj.) (1) Actively aggressive, attacking. (2) Of or for attacking</p>
v. 14 “having your lions girth about with truth” The girdle of truth	v. 17 The sword of the Spirit
v. 14 The breastplate of righteousness	v. 15 Feet shod ... gospel of peace
v. 16 The shield of faith	v. 17 The helmet of salvation

PLEASE NOTE: All our spiritual equipment is to be strengthened and reinforced by prayers Eph. 6:18 (KJV)

“Praying always with all and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints”

THIS IS WAFARE BUT WITH JESUS CHRIST We ARE ASSURED OF VICTORY, THEREFORE, **LET US PUT ON CHRIST!!**

Rom. 13:14 (Amplified Bible)

“But clothe yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) and make no provision for [indulging] the flesh [put a stop to thinking about evil cravings of your physical nature] to [gratify its] desires (lusts)”.

C. CREATED IN THE IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF GOD

Gen. 1:26-28

Related References: Gen. 5:1-2; 9:6; 1 Cor. 11:7; James 3:9

This topic has been debated for centuries; however, it is not my intention to get in great details, theological controversies or terminologies, etc. I am focusing on “the image and likeness of God”, what it means and briefly looking at related facts (even then we will not be able to cover all related areas).

“Let us make man ...” Gen. 1:26

Before getting into our discussion relating to being “created in the image of God”; I will briefly note a few things in regards to “let us make man.”

In Gen. 1:26-28 we read about the creation of human beings; chapter 2:4-25 gives more specific details about their creation and environment. These accounts are complimentary and teach several things; at this time I will highlight two.

1. Both man and woman were special creation of God, not a product of evolution (**See Gen. 1:27, Matt. 19:4; Mark 10:6**).
2. Man and woman were both created in the “image” and “likeness” of God. **On the basis of this image they could respond to and have fellowship with God and uniquely reflect His love, glory and holiness. They were to do so by knowing God and obeying Him (Gen. 2:15-17).**

Gen. 1:26a (KJV)

“And God said, Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness: ...”

You may have read some presentations, published on this subject, that teach that “image and likeness” refer to a physical likeness. It shouldn’t take you long to realize that such teaching is erroneous. **God is not physical and does not possess a physical body; He is Spirit** (John 4:24; Acts 17:24; 2 Cor. 3:17). *While Jesus Christ took on a human form (Phil. 2:5-11; John 1:14; Rom. 8:3; 1 Tim.3:16) He was truly God (Luke 22:69, 70; John 10:30; etc.) and equally truly man (Gal. 4:4; Phil 2:8; etc.). He took on humanity because it took ONLY a perfect man to pay the penalty of man’s sin . . . this is a subject that requires a separate study . . . you will observe later in this presentation that eventually we will have a body like Christ’s resurrected body.*

The image and likeness of God refers to a moral likeness or a likeness of righteousness and true holiness (Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10). I will briefly expand on this thought of moral likeness or a likeness of righteousness and true holiness. But before doing so, I will quote from three sources in reference to the “image and likeness of God”.

1. Beacon Bible Commentary
 “The God-head in counsel said, **Let us make man**. This creature was to be different. God said that **man** was to be **in our image**, having some semblance to the reality but lacking its fullness. Man was to be **in our likeness**, having general similarity to God but not being an exact duplicate. He was not a little God, but definitely, he was to be the bearer of spiritual distinctives which mark him as uniquely higher than the animals.

2. Barnes
 “In our image, after our likeness. He is to be allied to heaven as no other creature on earth is. He is to be related to the Eternal Being Himself denote not a material but a spiritual conformity to God”.

3. From the Web ... source: Got Questions?
 “Having the ‘image’ or ‘likeness’ of God means, in the simplest terms, that we were made to resemble God. Adam did not resemble God in the sense of God having flesh and blood. Scripture says that ‘God is a Spirit’ (John 4:24) and therefore exists without a body. However, Adam’s body did mirror the life of God in so far as it was created in perfect health and was not subject to death.

The image of God (Latin: *imago dei*) refers to the immaterial part of humanity. It sets human beings apart from the animal world, fits them for the dominion God intended them to have over the earth (Gen. 1:28), and enables them to commune with their Maker. It is a likeness mentally, morally and socially”.

As noted, “moral likeness or a likeness of righteousness and true holiness is a brief definition and not difficult to understand. I will now expand on this thought by presenting a summarized quote from “The Preacher’s Outline and Study Bible”. This presentation has five things in regards to what it means by the image and likeness of God (*you will observe that the fact of righteousness and holiness can be seen throughout this presentation . . . these will be discussed more fully in class*).

“What, then, does God mean when He says that man was created ‘in the image, in the likeness of God’? It means at least five things.

1. **God is perfect, so He created man just like Himself, perfect.** This of course, refers to the *original creation* of man. When God first created man, he was created like God, created in perfection, created without any flaw or defect whatsoever. He had a perfect body and mind, perfect health and intelligence. Man knew no sickness, disease, or accident; and he had no inability to learn. He experienced no pain or suffering. Man never shed a tear of sadness, sorrow, or grief. And above all, man was free of sin and corruption, free to live forever and never to die. Man was created perfect, in the vey image and likeness of God’s perfection (Matt. 5:48; Col. 1:28).

2. **God is light, full of the glory, splendor, and brilliance of light.** Thus, God created and clothed man with the glory of His light (1 John 1:5; Ps. 104:1, 2).
3. **God is holy: sinless, righteous, pure and moral.** Thus God created man holy, sinless, righteous, pure, and moral. God made man to be distinctive—set apart from all other creatures—in life and behavior, to live a godly life (Lev. 11:45; 1 Peter 1:15, 16; Heb. 12:14; 2 Peter 3:11).
4. **God is love: devote, loyal, loving, merciful, gracious, and compassionate.** So God created man as a creature of love, devotion, loyalty, mercy, grace and compassion (1 John 4:16).
5. **God is a Spirit, eternal Spirit; God is Life eternal life; God is the only Person who has lived forever, who never had a beginning and shall never have an ending. Therefore . . .**

God created man and gave him a *spirit, an immortal breath, a life that lives forever just like God*. God went beyond what He had made when He created the animals as living souls and gave them an earthly life and temporal breath. God made man a *spirit that is just like Himself, just like His very own life*. Man is spirit, even as God is Spirit. Man is not only a breathing, living soul for this earth. Man is a spirit, an immortal being.

In the light of this, there are two distinguishing marks of God's image within man, two distinguishing marks of man as a spirit.

(a) God's image within man is *the power of immortality*.

. *Man is not only a living and breathing soul like animals which are made for this earth, man is spirit, an immortal being made both for this earth and for eternity (John 17:3)*.

(b) God's image within man is both the *drive and the ability to worship*. Man not only has the soulish ability to reason and to relate, but he has . . .

(1) . . . an unquenchable *spiritual drive and ability* to reason after God.

(2) . . . an unquenchable drive and ability to relate to God.

Again, as mentioned above, no earthly animal has this spiritual drive and ability. The Bible does ascribe to souls varying abilities, but no animal soul has the drive and ability to reason after God to relate to God. Worship is a spiritual drive and ability, an ability of spirit only. Just like animals, man knows and understand the things of this earth, but man is *to know, believe and understand* God first and foremost (Isa. 4:10). Man is to worship God. God is Spirit, and man who is created spirit, is to worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24; Isa. 43:10)."

LIKENESS LOST

Man was the peak of God's creation; he was indeed blessed and highly favored, crowned with grandeur, uniqueness and superiority above all of God's creation. **One** of those special and noteworthy things with which his likeness guaranteed him was the possibility for man to respond to and have fellowship with God and uniquely reflect His love, glory and holiness. They were to do so by knowing and obeying God (Gen. 2:15-17).

Unfortunately, man disobeyed and fell by transgression which resulted in devastating consequences! The grand and glorious state man had was lost which included remaining in the presence of God and enjoying the bliss of fellowship with his Creator. The image of God in man was tarnished, trampled by man's rebellion and taken from him; man lost the most essential and necessary thing he needed. The overall reality is when Adam and Eve sinned; the moral likeness of God was corrupted (Gen. 6:5). This is what sin does and we have many examples in the Scriptures of which two are Samson (Judges 16) and King Saul (1 Samuel 15). Because of Adam's sin, all succeeding generations have and will have a sinful nature (Rom. 5:12); as a result all have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23).

GOD HAS MADE A WAY!

Two quotes to remember:

What Adam was before "The Fall". This we refer to as "Adamic Perfection".

Quote # 1: "Adam was the embodiment of all purity and goodness".

"The Fall" robbed man of that perfection and all that came with it, but God has made a way back to Him. Actually this was seen in the promise of redemption as seen in Genesis 3:14-21.

Quote # 2: "Salvation re-creates the moral image of God in people and opens the door to God's work of sanctification and growth in holiness".

Salvation is deliverance and, in the context being currently used, it is deliverance from the bondage of sin through Jesus Christ. It is a lot more than the "Hollywood Style Salvation" that we see on display today. I have covered this subject in lessons 1 and 2 of this chapter, also briefly outlined below and throughout this study and I will not go in further details at this time. Please note the following brief reminders relating to salvation:

The image of God within man can be renewed.

1. **Man can be "born again" . . . made spiritually alive to God**

John 3:3, 5

"Jesus answered and said unto him. Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. . . . Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God".

See also 1 Peter 1:2; 1 John 5:1

2. **Man can partake of God's divine nature, "put on the new man."**
Eph. 4:24
"And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness".
See also Col. 3:10; 2 Peter 1:4

3. **Man can be renewed, regenerated, or re-created in Christ Jesus.**
2 Cor. 5:17
"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new".
See also 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24; Titus 3:5

4. **Man can partake of God's divine nature and be assured of living forever. (As discussed before man MUST continue to *abide IN Christ*)**
2 Peter 1:4
Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakes of divine nature".
See also 1 Cor. 15:49; 2 Peter 3:10-13

THIS IS NOT ADAMIC PERFECTION

The experience of salvation definitely re-creates the moral image of God in man and it opens the door of opportunity to God's work of sanctification and growth in holiness. It is an experience of getting deeper and deeper in God, getting closer and closer to Him!

The restoration brought about by salvation is not at the same level as what Adam experienced before "The Fall". **At least not yet;** this does not mean God's work in us has fallen short but there are phases to our deliverance (salvation). While we are still in this hostile world (*remember: The church is a called out community in a hostile world*) we still have limitations, for example: (1) while we are free from the compulsion of sin the possibility still remains (***I must emphasize, we do not have to sin, the Bible says, "if we sin" 1 John 2:1.***) (2) our bodies still experience pain, sickness, diseases, etc. (3) we are still exposed to sorrows, disappointments, etc. (4) Our physical bodies will cease to function (die) and subject to corruption (decay) (Heb. 9:27) unless we are raptured (1 Thess. 4:13-18) (5) Etc.

Some religions promise a better life after death; in certain sect, followers are so brainwashed to the extent that they will commit the most atrocious acts of barbarity claiming it is the will of God. Others guarantee a better life in paradise if their members sell or distribute their literature; etc. Christianity, whose leader is the ONLY One who has conquered death and is coming back again, guarantees not only a better life but eternal life and a future far beyond our current level of understanding and what we are able to comprehend (1 Cor. 2:6-16, NB v. 9). I have mentioned the fact that in our current bodies believers do experience sickness, death, etc. but our glorious day is coming when ALL these and every other limitations, etc. will be passed away!! (Rev. 21:1-5, NB vv. 4, 5).

Today, it seems as if not many preachers/teachers put any emphasis on eternity and all that will be involved; for one thing many church goers have never heard the word “glorification” or related subjects. Briefly note “glorification” refers to the believer after death and judgment, it is the final step in the application of redemption. Great hymns that blessed our hearts but rarely used speak of our eternal home, for example: “In the New Jerusalem”, “O That Will Be Glory”, “When We All Get to Heaven”, and so many more. **The Believer’s hope is still alive and well and will NEVER fade away!!** Definitely for the Redeemed of the Lord “Better Days Are Coming” (Titus 2:13; 1 Peter 1:3; Heb. 6:18, 19).

I have already exceeded my time and cannot go in details in regards to the resurrected body and our life thereafter and we will still be limited as to how much we do know. We do have some insight as seen in the Scriptures. I am encouraging you to carefully and prayerfully read 1 Cor. 15.

Life in the Spirit Study Bible, presents seven pointers in regards to the resurrection of the body; I will be quoting two of those pointers (pointers 4 and 5).

1. **“In general terms, the believer’s resurrected body will be like the Lord’s own resurrected body** (Rom. 8:29; 1 Cor. 15:20, 42-44, 49; Phil. 3:20-21; 1 John 3:2). More specifically, the resurrected body will be:
 - (a) A body possessing continuity and identity with the body of this life and therefore recognizable (Luke 16:19-31).
 - (b) A body changed into a heavenly body adapted for the new heaven and new earth (1 Cor. 15:42-44, 47-48; Rev. 21:1)
 - (c) An imperishable body, free from decay and death (1 Cor.15:42)
 - (d) A glorified body, like Christ’s (1 Cor. 15:43; Phil. 3:21).
 - (e) A powerful body not subject to disease or weakness (1 Cor. 15:43).
 - (f) A spiritual (i.e., not natural, but supernatural) body, not bound by laws of nature (Luke 24:31; John 20:19; 1 Cor. 15:44).
 - (g) A body capable of eating and drinking (Luke 14:15; 22:14-18, 30; 24:43).

2. **When believers receive their new bodies, they put on immortality (1 Cor. 15:53). Scriptures indicate at least three purposes for this:**
 - (a) So that the believers may become all that God intended for humans at creation (1 Cor.2:9).
 - (b) So that believers may come to know God in the full way He wants them to know Him (John 17:3).
 - (c) So that God may express His love to His children as He desires (John 3:16; Eph. 2:7; 1 John 4:8-16”).

A change is coming!! Yes! A change for better is coming; far beyond what we can currently imagine and it is fully guaranteed!! As seen in 1 John 3:3, those who have this hope will strive to keep themselves pure even as Jesus Christ is pure; we will daily pursue righteousness and true

holiness with the end goal in mind (Phil. 3:14; see also Luke 1:24; 1 Cor. 9:25; etc.). Keep in mind that this requires effort and diligence. This must be taken seriously, with determination and fully relying on the grace and mercy of God who is able to see us through (2 Tim. 1:12). In Chapter 1 Lesson 2 mention was made of the “Redeemed” seen in Rev. 7:9-17. We saw that the “white robes” were given because they have been made pure and free from all blemishes of sin and corruption of the world. Note verse 14, “... and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” Reminds me of Isaiah 35, NB vv. 4-10 and highlight verses 8-10; if we really intend to experience the blessings of the resurrected life let us daily pursue righteousness and true holiness (Eph 4:24; Col. :10; etc.).

I will close with a partial quote from a great hymn and some verses from 1 Cor. 15.

The hymn **Jesus is Coming Soon**” stanzas three and four

Stanza 3

Troubles will soon be o’er, happy for evermore
When we meet on that shore, free from all care
Rising up in the sky, telling this world goodbye
Homeward we then shall fly, glory to share.

Stanza 4

Oh, Jesus is coming soon, morning or night or noon
Many will meet their doom, trumpets will sound
All of the dead shall rise, righteous meet in the skies
Going where no one dies, heaven-ward bound.

1 Cor. 15:42-58 Amplified Bible

Verse 42: “So it is with the resurrection of the dead. [The body] that is sown is perishable and decays, but [the body] that is resurrected is imperishable (immune to decay, immortal). [Dan. 12:3]

Verse 43: It is sown in dishonor and humility; it is raised in honor and glory. It is sown in infirmity and weakness; it is resurrected in strength and endued with power.

Verse 44: It is sown a natural (physical) body; it is raised a supernatural (a spiritual) body. [As surely as] there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body.

Verse 45: Thus it is written, The first man Adam became a living being (an individual personality): the last Adam (Christ) became a life-giving Spirit [restoring the dead to life]. [Gen. 2:7.]

Verse 46: But it is not the spiritual which came first, but the physical and then the spiritual.

Verse 47: The first man [was] from out of the earth, made of dust (earthly-minded); the second Man (is) the *Lord* from out of heaven. [Gen. 2:7.]

Verse 48: Now those who are made of the dust are like him who was first made of the dust (earthly-minded); and as is [the Man] from heaven (heavenly-minded).

Verse 49: And just as we have borne the image [of the man] of dust, so shall we and so *let us* also bear the image [of the Man] of heaven.

Verse 50: But I tell you this, brethren, flesh and blood cannot [become partakers of eternal salvation and] inherit or share in the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable (that which is decaying) inherit or share in the imperishable (the immortal).

Verse 51: Take notice! I tell you a mystery (a secret truth, an event decreed by the hidden purpose or counsel of God). We shall not all fall asleep [in death], but we shall all be changed (transformed)

Verse 52: In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the [sound of the] last trumpet call. For a trumpet will sound, and the dead [in Christ] will be raised imperishable (free and immune from decay), and we shall be changed (transformed).

Verse 53: For this perishable [part of us] must put on the imperishable [nature], and this mortal [part of us, this nature that is capable of dying] must put on immortality (freedom from death).

Verse 54: And when this perishable puts on the imperishable and this that was capable of dying puts on freedom from death, then shall be fulfilled the Scripture that says, Death is swallowed up (utterly vanquished forever) in and unto victory. [Isa. 25:8.]

Verse 55: O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? [Hos. 13:14]

Verse 56: Now sin is the sting of death, and sin exercises its power [upon the soul] through [the abuse of [the Law].

Verse 57: But thanks be to God, Who gives us the victory [making us conquerors] through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Verse 58: Therefore, my beloved brethren, be firm (steadfast), immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord [always being superior, excelling, doing more than enough in the service of the Lord], knowing and being continually aware that your labor in the Lord is not futile [it is never wasted or to no purpose].

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS

Just noting two things

1. **1 Cor. 15** has a wealth of information worthy of your attention and you are encouraged to study the chapter carefully and prayerfully.
2. **Genesis 1:26-28 and related Scriptures also have a wealth of information that will also be of great value to you. For example:**
 - (a) "Us" in verse 26 from the Hebrew "Elohim" referring to Father, Son and Holy Spirit
 - (1) The Divine Council consulted before creating man.
 - (2) Note the pronouns "Us" and "Our" are in the plural form, the Three Persons of the Divine Trinity.
 - (b) This is not a study on the Trinity, but it is important to make mention of the following:
 - (1) While the word "Trinity" is not used in the Bible the teaching is evidently clear. As seen in the creation account the use of the plural "us" and "our" suggest God has

a plurality; see Psa. 2:7 and Isa. 48:16. Revelation of the tri-unity of God does not become clear, however until the N. T. **Briefly note:**

- The baptism of Christ: Matt. 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22 (note: Christ in the water, the Father speaking from heaven and the Holy Spirit descending in the form of a dove) in John 1:29 two persons of the Trinity mentioned.
- See also Matt. 28:19; John 14:26; 15:26; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2.
- Some sources say that we proclaim three Gods and I wouldn't have time nor is it necessary to debate the issue. **THIS I DO NOTE THAT WE WORSHIP ONE GOD . . . ONE GOD WHO MANIFESTS HIMSELF IN THREE PERSONS.**
 - The Divine Trinity speaks of God and we cannot fully define God or He wouldn't be God.
 - In any room no matter the conditions there are three things that may not be observed but they are always present: light, heat and air.
 - **1 John 5:7 (KJV)**
"For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one."
 - There is ONE GOD: 1 Cor. 8:4; Eph.4:6; 1 Tim. 2:5; etc.

(2) Man was created in the image and likeness of the Divine Trinity (Gen. 1:26, 27); his composition consists of spirit, soul and body.

1 Thess. 5:23 (KJV)

*"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole **spirit** and **soul** and **body** be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ".*

2 Tim. 2:15

KJV

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Amplified Bible

"Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling] the Word of Truth."

CHAPTER 1 LESSON 3 REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Complete the following:
(a) _____ is a violation of the (b) _____ law of God.

2. Disobedience takes the form of two types of sin, name them.

3. Briefly define justification.

4. Define regeneration

5. What other terms are used to define "born again"?

6. Complete the following:
Justification changes man's (a) _____ in relation to judgment. Regeneration changes man's (b) _____ in relation to righteousness.

7. What is the result of justification?

8. Define reconciliation.

9. According to the Scriptures why is reconciliation between God and man necessary?

10. What is the general definition for redemption?

11. What is the biblical message of redemption?

12. Complete the following.

(a) Sanctification is a purging experience and begins with the _____
_____.

(b) A _____ is the result of
sanctification.

13. Complete the following:

(a) _____ has to do with character. Righteousness has to do
with (b) _____.

14. Answer True or False. Explain your answer.

Speaking in tongues is the only evidence of the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

15. Choose the correct answer from the list below to fill in the blank.

_____ of the heart must be experienced before one receives the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

- (a) Brokenness (b) Steadfastness (c) Cleansing (d) Sorrow

16. What is the purpose of attiring in the armor of God (Eph. 6:11-17)?

17. The armor of God listed in Eph. 6:11-17 are both “Defensive” and “Offensive”; place each piece accordingly in the chart below.

- (1) Feet shod with the gospel of peace (v. 14)
- (2) The shield of faith (v. 16)
- (3) The girdle of truth (v. 14)
- (4) The sword of the Spirit (v. 17)
- (5) The breastplate of righteousness (v. 14)
- (6) The helmet of salvation (v. 17)

DEFENSIVE	OFFENSIVE

18. Answer True or False. Explain your answer.

Being created in the image and likeness of God (Gen. 1:26, 27), refers to physical likeness of God.

19. In summary, explain what the "image and likes of God means (Gen. 1:26, 27).

20. In addition to the summarized definition in reference to what it means that God create man in His "image and likeness", five things were noted in our lesson; briefly list all five with Scripture references.

21. Several things can be stated in regards to the resurrected body (1 Cor. 15; etc.) Give the two pointers noted in our lesson with Scripture references.
