

公  
義  
來

"Goong"  
Righteousness = Eight  
whole world  
Lamb  
Me

1

'Loy' Come to the CROSS Sinners. Come, carry your own Cross and die to yourself daily

## THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT LIFE CHANGING CHINESE WORDS

'Goong Yee' = Righteousness – only a few households can be saved – (8 souls out of the whole world) Genesis 6, Acts Chapter 10 & 16:32

'Loy' = Come - Follow Me ( Jesus Christ )  
- to the Cross  
- Carry your own Cross, daily  
- Die to yourself, as a living sacrifice as a grain of wheat  
Matthew 4:19  
Galatians 6:12  
Luke 9:23  
Romans 12:1-4, Galatians 2:20  
John : 12:24  
" Unless a rain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone, but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves ( agapes )his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternity. If anyone serves Me, let him **follow Me**, and where I am, there my servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him my Father will honour."  
John 12: 24-26  
" You do not delight in burnt offerings. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart – these O god you will not despise "  
Psalm 51: 16b - 17  
" .who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart " Psalm 24: 3b-4

GOONG Eight  
World

RIGHTEOUSNESS  
Genesis Chapter 6  
Noah, 3 sons and wives ( 8 )  
Saved by God in Ark  
( One household )

They had the Lamb  
Over them  
Individuals were violent  
Hence killing implements  
LH= dagger, RH= Spear  
YEE  
-----  
Me  
Dagger Spear

### OUR RESPONSE

Jesus says: "Come,  
Follow Me"  
And they did,  
"Immediately"  
LOY  
COME  
2 Sinners  
on Crosses  
both sides  
of Jesus

公  
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'Loy' Come to the CROSS Sinners. Come, carry your own Cross and die to yourself daily

## DISCUSSION

The word **righteousness** is a key word to understanding the life of Christ and the life of a Christian. The three words in Chinese characters succinctly contain in their meaning, all that is necessary for salvation. We can do no wrong by hiding these words in our hearts.

The word *righteousness* is first used in Genesis Chapter 6 in context of the Great Flood in the world. God looked at the world and repented that He had created mankind who filled the earth with violence, and determined to exterminate everyone – except for Noah and his household of three sons and their wives – in all, 8 souls, who were found to be *righteous* – in fact it was Noah who was *righteous*, and his righteousness made his whole household *righteous*!

The account of the Great Flood is remembered in all human civilizations, usually in a corrupted form, simply because the original meaning has been distorted by Satan working through faulty memories and sinful men who have not wanted to worship their Creator. It is remembered universally simply because the world was repopulated by Noah and his household – from Shem the "white" peoples, Japeth the "yellow" and "brown", and Ham the "black" peoples. The Holy Bible ( God's own words ) preserves the pure account.

In the New Testament, reference to the Flood is to the Ark, as baptism in water **1 Peter 3:20**, and salvation by Jesus Christ through righteousness by faith:

*"By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by which he condemned the world, and became heir to the righteousness which is by faith."* **Hebrews 11: 7.**

God's hand was very clearly on Noah as he preached righteousness as a shining light in a world of darkness.

Theologians debate the hidden Christ of the Old Testament. The word righteousness, as revealed in the Chinese words for righteousness, brilliantly summarises the reason for the Flood and reveals the "hidden" Christ.

Let us now turn our eyes to the two Chinese words for "righteousness"

公  
義

'GOONG' is made-up of two pictures  
the numerator, number "Eight"  
and a symbol for 'out of the whole world'  
as the denominator.

Not surprisingly, this accurately reflects what happened – eight souls were saved out of the whole world!

'YEE' is made-up of two pictures  
the numerator, the word/picture for 'LAMB'  
over the denominator word 'ME'

'Loy" Come to the CROSS Sinners. Come, carry your own Cross and die to yourself daily

So here we have a precise picture of what righteousness means – only eight out of the whole world had the Lamb over each of them. As they were all in the Ark we can also say that only one household out of the world were saved, and that salvation entered this household because of the righteousness of Noah who had trained up his family to trust in God. What a beautiful picture of salvation! What a wonderful picture of Christ ! Christ is seen over Me and my household!

### ***THREE KEY SACRIFICIAL IMAGES OF THE LAMB OF GOD***

1. The LAMB who takes away sins is defined in history by John the Baptist as being Jesus Christ "*Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world*" words recorded by the Holy Spirit in the account of the Gospel according to John 1:29. We must also remember that the unblemished Lamb was also an acceptable sin offering for the Israelites in the Old Testament. The blood of the Lamb is effective to wipe away the stains of sin, to clean a person's guilty conscience, to make the person clean before God's eyes.

2. The LAMB is also over ME No other person, not a Church, nothing can be over ME but Jesus.

3. The Lamb is also over THE HOUSEHOLD, eight individuals, who make up the word *righteousness* in the Chinese language **Ephesians Chapters 5 & 6 Mark 13: 33-37**. Jesus Christ reigns as The Lord in households, which are *righteous*.

This image involves ultra violence, a gentle dove-like protection, and a gentle abiding presence.

### ***Actions done against ME.***

The Chinese word for 'ME' is made-up of two pictures – on the left hand side – a DAGGER, and on the right hand side, a SPEAR which are two killing implements. A spear is a killing implement used in a thrusting movement requiring both hands and at arms length. A dagger is normally used up-close. It can also be thrown accurately. Usually, such a weapon is used by friends who get up close because they can – we let our guard down with friends. When our 'friend' gets what they want from us, they then stab us. We can all relate to this. I can hardly believe that my friend did it to me!

I cannot believe that I have been stabbed by my friend, not even as I clutch my side, and blood oozes through my fingers. But it is true.

The spearing or back-stabbing by people is very common to our life experience.

These experiences are summarized by the word **violence**, of actions done against us. Human history is littered with the results of unbridled power – it results in tyranny and great suffering by the populace. Human history is a history of war.

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### **Actions done by ME**

But there is another dimension. Without the Lamb covering ME, Chinese remember the individual as being a violent person. This is because if I am number one in life then I will stab to kill others so that I can advance up the status tree of life. I will tread on others to further my own ambitions. Murder, manslaughter, Women's Refuges, bickering, robberies are part and parcel of human existence.

### **'Me' and the Lamb of God**

The killer, ME just does not stop at other fellow human beings. I can't help myself – I am responsible for killing Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. I with my own dagger, with my own spear - I have killed Him. He was on the Cross. He died for ME, and it was my spear which went into His side (not only the Roman soldier's spear ). I am confronted with the realization of my own actions towards Jesus Christ. I am guilty. I am a sinner! I need the blood of Jesus Christ to wash clean my sins. I did not believe in him – this is the greatest sin!

*"If I had not come and spoken to them they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates Me hates My Father also. If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father."* John 15: 22-24

Do you hear what the Holy Spirit is saying?

**It is a sin not to believe in Jesus Christ.** John 15: 22

If a person does not believe in Jesus Christ this makes them to be a LIAR - 1 John 2:22

**It is a sin not to live by all of God's words!** Matthew 4:4

On top of all this **I have my own sins, which I have committed.** Romans 3:23 I know them. What can cleanse me from my guilty conscience? What can take away the deeply ingrained stains of sin? Answer: Nothing but the Blood of Jesus The Christ. If He is over Me and I am under Him, His dripping blood continues to cleanse ME. All I have to do is to stay under Him, in humbleness. All I have to do is follow Him. Wherever He goes, I go. When He stops, I stop. All I have to do is to keep my eyes looking upwards to make sure I am still under Him.

The entry into the world of one person who can solve the problem of sin and its effects is the most important person in the world for those who care to know. The Lamb of God, Jesus The Christ, is irrelevant to those who don't care.

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### ***THE LAMB OF GOD OVER ME***

*"...you were not redeemed with corruptible things like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." 1 Peter 1: 18-19 see also Ephesians 1: 7*

Knowing that I am a dirty rotten sinner is a revelation from God! It is the first small step to the long, long road of salvation – to Heaven. It is the first small act of surrender in a life-time of submission. His presence over every "Me" in this world is the most beautiful picture in the world – it is a picture of a person free of all the trappings of this world, yet able to live in the world.

### ***THE EIGHT WHO WERE SAVED – The Doctrine of the Remnant & Predestination*** Romans 8: 28-29

Only eight souls out of the whole population in the world were saved! Only one household. I'd say, "that ain't too many!" We are reminded by Jesus Christ that many are called but few chosen! Matthew 20: 16; 7:13-14 .

We don't choose: God chooses us. He is the potter - we are the clay. Some He reserves for displaying. Others, He produces to destroy Jeremiah 18: 1-11; 19: 1-15. That is the prerogative of the Creator, the Potter. Predestination is not only Biblical but central to true faith. The Doctrine of the Remnant is also true. Only a few survived the Flood. Only a few were saved in the great Babylonian Captivity of the Israelites. Only a few Christians will be saved! Only a few will make it into Heaven. God knows who. Ephesians 1: 5

*"For by Grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works lest anyone should boast". Ephesians 2:8-9*

### ***THE LAMB OF GOD OVER THE HOUSEHOLD OR HOME***

Noah and his family / household were saved. Only eight . Only one household. Out of the whole world, only one household! What does this tell us about salvation? Answer: many are called but few households are chosen. Furthermore, the household is the centre of the work of the Lamb of God. Here is the training ground for the future followers of Christ. Jesus Christ is the Master, the Lord of the household Mark 13:33-37.

*"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household [Greek = Oikos]" Acts 16: 32*

They were all, all eight of them, saved. They were tossed in the floods of life and came to a place of rest. So too can we come to this place of rest, in Jesus Christ – with all of our family. All we have to do is teach them about loving God! Deuteronomy Chapter 6. All we have to do is to train our children Proverbs 22:6 All we have to do is to practice what we preach! Ephesians Chapters 5 & 6 .

The *oikos* formula for salvation is a God ordained household formula.

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And if you, as a spouse, are the only one to believe in Jesus Christ – do not despair! Your 'unsaved' spouse – be it husband or wife – is sanctified by your faith in Jesus Christ, and so are your children! Read about this in the First Letter to the Corinthians chapter 7. Special conditions apply, so read this whole chapter and believe the words – they are God's words given to us for doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness! 2 Timothy 3: 16

**NOAH** – a preacher of righteousness. Noah preached – he warned people of the coming judgment on this world – and was laughed at and scorned. But the flood came! The heavens opened up and the waters were released from the bowels of the earth. The world was drowned, just as the Egyptians who pursued the Israelites were drowned by the Red Sea. The Israelites made it into the Promised Land the Land flowing with milk and honey! We can make it into the Promised land of Heaven. Noah is ME, the Head of the Household. I have to take responsibility for my household. I must be a preacher of righteousness to my family, to my friends, to the world. Preaching is declaring the righteousness of God – telling about the story of The Lamb of God! Preaching is living the Christ-like life, being a living testimony of the glory of God – His Christ.

## ME

What are the implications for ME?

1. I am righteous only If I have the Lamb over ME. If anyone else is over ME then I am not righteous. The Church over ME does not make me righteous. A Pastor or priest over ME does not make me righteous. Only the LAMB over ME makes me righteous. Just as the Israelites had the cloud to protect them by day, and it turned into a pillar of fire by night to keep them warm and to protect them from wild animals, so the children of Israel could only move when the cloud moved. They stopped when the cloud stopped. 1 Corinthians 10: 1-2, Exodus whole book. Or Exodus 13:21-22, 14:21-24
2. With my own dagger and spear I have killed the Lamb. Personal liability. Personal salvation. I am a wretched sinner – who can save me? Jesus Christ. Read Romans Chapters 1-7.
3. The Lamb's blood washes me clean from all unrighteousness.  
" *But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*  
***If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.***  
*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from*  
**all unrighteousness.** " 1 John 1: 7 – 9



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His blood washes away my **un**righteousness – Take the "un" out and I am now righteous.

Being clean on the outside is a tremendous feeling – the smell of fresh soap on the skin. A shower washes away all the day's dirt and filth. But what can wash away a guilty conscience? Listen....

*"Come now, and let us reason together," says the LORD. 'Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, They shall be as (white as) wool.' "* **Isaiah 1:18**

*"...If the Son makes you free you shall be free indeed."* **John 8:36**

Righteousness is having the Lamb over Me. Self-righteousness is not having the Lamb over ME. To such a man or woman, there is so real a joy to have the Lamb over them that they will act like the man who was lame from birth who on being healed by the Holy Spirit through Peter, *"leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them, walking, leaping and praising God"* **Acts 3:8**

4. The Lamb over ME makes me number 2, not number 1 in life. As number 2, I show to the world that I am submitted to His leading, to Him only. He, Jesus Christ is the LORD. I am His "doulos" (Greek *δουλος* for bondman, bondservant, servant, slave). As His slave He undertakes to look after my every need, so long as I remain submitted to Him, under His covering, under the LAMB. This slavery is a bondage unto freedom, true freedom from sin and its effects on my life. **Romans Chapter 6, especially 6:13,16,18.**

*"Therefore, if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed"* **John 8:36**  
Such slavery makes us 'sons and 'daughters' of Jesus Christ.

Note: This "doulos" slavery is the Jewish thought that the Master is directly responsible for the welfare of the servant and his family, and that this relationship may end after a defined period, usually 7 years, or it may continue. It does not have the connotation of the slavery of the Africans in the cotton fields of the southern states of the U.S.A. under a system of abuse and domination. This "domination" slavery model of America is the one opposed by the woman's liberation movement, which has been adopted by many women, including "Christian" women.

## **ME and HOME**

The LAMB makes his HOME in us as individuals, as CHRIST-IN (Christians).

*"If anyone loves (agapes) Me, he will keep My word and My Father will love (agape) him, and We will come to him and make our home with (in) him. ...These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."* **John 14:23, 25**

**( see also 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 & 6:19-20 )**

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The word 'HOME' is a warm word. In Greek it is a verb which means "abide" or "continue" or "abode" [ *Greek meno, μενω* ] A house is of 'bricks and mortar' – there is no warmth and feeling in such a place. A home is what a loving couple creates with their children, and whoever lives under that roof.

**Here we have the amazingly warm and comforting description that the Lord Himself, the Father (and the Holy Spirit – inferred from vs 25 ) indwells us. They make their home in Me. As we have also discovered, Jesus Christ is Lord also of our households, sanctifying all who are within in context of the Greek word *ekklesia* (called-out ones ). Ephesians 5: 22-33 and Chapter 6.**

### **THE LAMB AND KING**

The word Lamb in Chinese contains a hidden word - that of **KING** ( the three horizontal strokes joined by a central vertical line) Jesus Christ came into the world as a person who was conceived by God the Father ( through the Holy Spirit) and born through the virgin Mary - thus He was fully man and fully God. Mary was Jesus Christ's actual mother, Joseph was his foster father. The man Jesus Christ offered Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world. This was the First coming of Jesus Christ - not as a conquering King, as the Jews were expecting, but as a sacrificial Lamb who was crucified on the greatest of all Jewish festivals - the Passover. For some strange reason the Messiah was not supposed to be a sacrificial Lamb ( according to the prevailing wisdom - yet Jesus Christ fulfilled precisely the Old Testament Scriptures, as the disciples pointed out and recorded for us to read today.

The Second Coming of Jesus Christ will be as a King of Kings and Lord of Lords. In a sense this has already occurred in the coming of the Holy Spirit who brings the resurrected Jesus Christ, in Spirit, as the Head of each household ( see Ephesians 5 ). The King rules in agape ( sacrificial love ) over us. We submit to His Kingship as His subjects. He is responsible for looking after us as long as we submit to His Kingship.

### **SUMMARY**

The two Chinese words for Righteousness reveal that:

1. Salvation is for households, just as it is for individuals. Acts 2: 39, 46; 8:3, Acts 10, 16:15, 16:15-32
2. Few can be saved ( only 8 in Noah's time ) – many are called – few are chosen.
3. The Lamb is the one who covers ME – where He goes, I go
4. The Blood of the Lamb washes Me clean of all unrighteousness – therefore I am made righteous. As long as He is over Me, I am safe, saved, and being saved!  
1 John 1:7-9
5. I am forever made very aware of my sinfulness and wretchedness, safe in the knowledge that I am saved by His Grace.



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6. The indwelling of the Godhead ( Father, Son, and Holy Spirit ) in ME and in my HOUSEHOLD or HOME produces a beautiful warmth and secure feeling of His presence. Contentment, relaxation, restfulness are the result of being enveloped by the abiding spirit of God. The tender love ( agape ) of our dearest heavenly Father may be likened to a mother nursing her baby at the breast.
7. Me and my household with the Lamb over and in us can remain saved.
8. As long as I rest in His presence I can enjoy Him and He, Me and my Family.
9. We preach His righteousness by allowing Him to live His life in and through us as individuals and as a family. We glorify Him by our agape, by obeying His words, by His reflected glory in us.
11. The devil prowls around like a lion waiting to tear me apart – to steal, to destroy and to kill my family and to steal, to destroy each family member – to take away the Peace of God. **John Chapter 10.** As long as we stay under the covering of the Lamb of God we are safe. He is my armour: He is my belt of Truth; He is my breastplate of righteousness; He is my shoes of The gospel of Peace; He is my shield of Faith to quench all the fiery darts of Satan; He is my helmet of Salvation; He is my sword of the Spirit – the word of God; He is my reason for praying in the Spirit. **John Chapter 10 and Ephesians Chapter 6**
12. The Lamb over Me makes me righteous. I present myself to Him as a living sacrifice daily. I present my body as a living sacrifice, reaffirming that I am set apart from the world. I present myself passively for the Lamb to transform me into His image for the renewing of my mind, proving that I am perfectly in His Will.  
**Romans 12:1-4**
13. The Lamb over me has a dual image: **The Sacrificial Lamb** whose blood cleanses, purges away the deep stains of my sins forever on a continuing basis as long as I commit myself to a life-long dedicated walk to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ as THE LORD. The second image is that of the **hidden KING** - hidden because King Jesus The Christ is yet to be revealed to this world at His second Coming - the " parousia". In the Kingdom of Heaven there will be reign of true peace where the Lion will lie down with a lamb, where there will be no more pain, suffering and tears. As His subjects we will reign with Him on earth, as it is in Heaven.

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## COME, FOLLOW ME

AND I [Jesus Christ] WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN



This is a picture of The Cross of Jesus Christ  
See the big central Cross  
With two people on a cross on either side  
You can also see the Chinese word for Eight –  
signifying the fact that few will follow the Way of the Cross  
The Way requires each of us to die to self, die to the world, and to  
die for Jesus Christ ( we must carry our own Crosses, daily ).  
The word COME is an active word – it is an imperative command,  
like sit, stand. The hearer must obey!! If we do not obey Him we  
are rebelling against Him. And rebellion is as witchcraft

1 Samuel 15:23

The Peace and tranquility of the household covered by the Lamb is replaced with this  
image of ultimate violence.

### The Cross

The Cross was used by Rome as a symbol of punishment – submit to the power of  
Rome or else! Rebellion will be met with force – nailing to the Cross for a slow and  
painful death. The agonized cry of men on Crosses could be heard throughout  
Jerusalem.

The Lamb died on The Cross on the Passover Day – the greatest of the Jewish  
festivals. The Passover commemorates The Exodus from Egypt – the salvation of  
Israel by God when the angel of death passed over the households which had been  
obedient – dressed for a journey, killed an unblemished lamb, placed the blood over  
the lintel and two doorposts of the door with hyssop, roasted the lamb in fire and ate  
its body with unleavened bread and bitter herbs Exodus 12: 7 – 11. The Cross  
symbolizes The Exodus of Christians from this world – a dramatic cutting off to go into  
the Promised Land of Heaven.

***The Cross stands as the ultimate symbol of reality in human history.*** The events  
of the Cross is remembered by the Western world calendar as the pivotal point in  
world history –B.C. ( before Christ ) and A.D. ( anno Domini – after Christ ) for here  
there was the meeting of the biggest battle of all – the cosmic battle between the  
spiritual forces of darkness and light, between good and evil, between Satan and  
Jesus Christ. It is also the symbol of reconciliation between God and Mankind. It is  
also the ultimate symbol of Hope – there is a defined path to Heaven. Truth is no  
longer a matter of philosophical debate but rooted in a person – Jesus Christ who will

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lead us home to Heaven. Eternal Life is now made a reality to human experience and within reach of the ordinary sinful person.

## Two Sinners

Two sinners were placed on either side of Jesus Christ. **Luke 23: 39-43**. One went to paradise with Him. The other died in his sins. There is hope for each and everyone of us! But only if we recognize Jesus Christ as the Son of man and the Son of God – as the Saviour.

We each have a choice of which sinner we want to be – the one who went to Paradise because he recognized who Jesus Christ was, or the one hardened in sin.

Note too, that both are on a Cross. Just because we are on a Cross does not guarantee citizenship into Heaven. Heaven or Hell – the choice is ours. John 3:16 applies.

## The Eight

Notice the number 8 (in Chinese characters). Few will answer the call to "Come, follow Me". Chinese used to call Christianity "The Come" religion echoing Jesus Christ's command to "Come Follow Me". This imperative command was obeyed immediately, and cut all ties with the world, including all social and economic obligations. For instance:

1. Peter and Andrew were fishing – on the command "Come" they immediately left their nets and boat, and followed Him. **Matthew 4:19-20, Mark 1:16-17**
2. James and John were in a boat mending fishing nets with their father – they left the boat and their father Zebedee immediately and followed Him. **Matthew 4: 21-22, Mark 1: 19-20**
3. One of his disciples wanted to go and bury his father – Jesus Christ said to him – "*Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead*" **Matthew 8: 21-22** The command, "Follow Me" cut the most sacred social obligation a son had in life – to bury his own dad.

The sword of Christ cuts all ties with this world – a man's worst enemy can be his family. **Matthew 10: 16 –42**. The axe must be allowed to chop **Matthew 3: 10**, and the Holy Spirit allowed to fulfill His work in the household. Whenever one spouse obeys the Lord and becomes a believer, that household is immediately sanctified (this includes the other 'unbelieving spouse, and children at least – see 1 Corinthians Chapter 7). Often, the fear is that the family unit will be split because of the step in faith by one. It is clear that our agaping God Father has no such intentions – all are sanctified by the faith of one! The flesh fears -The Spirit works wonders and keeps on working miracles.

Note: The problem of the Truth is to embrace the fullness of the gospel message within our thought patterns. We need to have panoramic vision, not blinkered

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vision. We need to have God's pattern of thinking to embrace the "sword and agape" thoughts. 2 Timothy 1:13. Thus the act of presenting ourselves as living sacrifices to God ( putting ourselves on our own Cross ) denotes a cutting from the world and a renewing of our minds Romans 12: 1-2.

We have to select what Culture we are going to adopt – the Culture of our upbringing, of the world or the Heavenly Culture of the Kingdom of God. We have to decide which is more important! Put this way, the choice is clear-cut. In actual life, some choices are agonizingly difficult.

## The Temple

Thus Jesus Christ was the Pascal Lamb whose blood was shed for the sins of the world. The veil to the Holy of Holies was supernaturally torn when Jesus Christ gave-up His spirit, symbolically ending the Temple system of blood sacrifices. Jesus Christ, as the Lamb of God, fulfilled all that the Temple stood for as a means of atonement between man and God. Thus He said:

*"It is finished."* John 19:30

These three simple words put the final three nails in the Temple coffin. The Temple built by men's hands is replaced with the Holy Spirit residing or dwelling in the body of each believer 1 Corinthians 3: 16, 6:19; John 2:19- 22; Acts 7:48-53, 17: 24-34, Hosea 8:14. Later in the first Century, Men succeeded in resurrecting the Temple systems and began 'creating' a formal Church system which has evolved into the Church system and it's many variations, as we know it today. In so doing, they denied (and continue to deny) the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and all that it means.

The fact that the Jewish religious leaders refused to accept the resurrection is understandable – they would have had to give-up all the status, culture, power and prestige inherent in the Religious State Temple system. They fought to the bitter end – even to the nailing of Jesus Christ to a Cross – to get rid of the threat. Men who left their pagan (devil worshipping) temples found the going too hard and also tried to incorporate elements of their past into Christianity. Similarly today, men do not want to dismantle the existing Church structure, or their own belief structures for exactly the same reasons. Whilst the Temple has yet to be rebuilt in Jerusalem (and it will be soon – scale models are being sold on the internet to prepare Israelites for the day ), Temple believing "Christians" have the Church system today as a prelude to the full emergence of Babylon, a super Church embracing all major religions.Revelations Chapter 17

It is a fact of the New Testament that Jesus Christ then re-established the household as the center of salvation. Heads of households met together with their families as the *ekklesia* ( assembly of the called-out ones ). The New Testament catch-cry is:

*"Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."*

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*Then the Jews said, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you will raise it up in three days?' But He was speaking of the temple of His body. "* John 2: 19b – 21

*" Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household" Acts 16:32*

*" The Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands " Acts 7: 48*

*" Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"*  
1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19

(You can read a fuller discussion of this topic under the heading "The Bride & The Harlot: Summary and Table 1, or visit [http:// kiwi7kiwi.tripod.com](http://kiwi7kiwi.tripod.com) (URL) The Bride and The Harlot) .

### Death to the Flesh -The Denials by Peter and the Disciples

There are three noteworthy instances where the flesh cannot please God:

1. Jesus Christ announces His death and resurrection. This is in context of the warning against the Leaven of the Sadducees and Pharisees, the revelation to Peter that Jesus is the Christ ( The Anointed One ). Pete rebukes Jesus for predicting His death. Jesus rebukes the rebuke with the words:  
*" Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men!" Matthew 16: 22-23.*  
 Then, His disciples are reminded to deny themselves, take up their crosses, and follow Him!  
*" If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will find It " Matthew 16: 24-25*
2. On the night of His betrayal, Peter denies Jesus Christ three times before the rooster crows. On doing so, Peter weeps bitterly. Matthew 26: 69 – 75. At His arrest, the disciples flee.
3. Jesus Christ restores Peter, but in a very gentle manner one gentle step at a time ( just as He reveals Himself to the woman at the well, step by step, revelation by revelation John 4: 1 – 26 )

*" Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of Jonah, do you love [ agape ] Me more than these?"*

*He said to Him, 'Yes Lord; You know that I love [ phileo ] you'*  
*He said to him, 'Feed My lambs'*

*He said to him again a second time, 'Simon son of Jonah, do you love [ agape ] Me?*

*He said to Him, 'Yes Lord; You know that I love [ phileo ] you. '*  
*He said to him, ' Tend My sheep'*

*He said to him the third time, 'Simon, son of Jonah, do you love [ phileo ] Me?"*

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*Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, 'Do you love [ phileo ] Me?'*

*And he said to Him, 'Lord, You know all things; You know that I love [ phileo ] You' .*

*Jesus said to him, 'Feed My sheep.'* " **John 21: 15b – 17**

In order to understand what is going on in this conversation we need to be aware of the fundamental difference between the two words used in Greek for the word love. *Agape* is the Greek word ( can be a noun or a verb )denoting God's Love – it is pure sacrificial love which emanates from God. Man cannot copy it. It is most famously used in John 3:16 " *For God so loved [agaped] the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*"

The Greek word *phileo* means love on a human level – tender affection ( can be a noun or a verb ).

Now back to the verses. The Lord Jesus Christ uses the word *agape*. Peter replies using *phileo*. On the third time, when the Lord uses the word *phileo*, instead of *agape*, Peter is aggrieved. The Lord has come down to Peter's human level of response. Peter realizes this and is hurt. Peter is unable to *agape*. It is only later, after the coming onto earth by an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, on the Day of Pentecost, that Peter is controlled by the Holy Spirit – hence He is the one the Holy Spirit uses to speak to the men in Jerusalem **Acts Chapter 2**. The Flesh is weak and unacceptable to God. The Spirit strengthens, and is acceptable.

Despite this in-filling of the Holy Spirit or enabling or expression of the control of the Holy Spirit, there remains a very human element of Peter's life – He is still decidedly very Jewish and unable to shake-off the 'leaven' of his Jewish roots. Paul has to slam-dunk Peter publicly for siding with the Judaiser Christians in Galatia **Galatians 2: 11 – 21**. Peter, despite the dramatic Pentecostal in-filling of the Holy Spirit is still very true to character – and still very, very human, and weak !

*We all have clay feet – we need clean hands and hearts!*

Lessons for us all – the flesh cannot please God – Satan can infiltrate us at anytime. We are always reminded by the Lord of our weaknesses and our need to let Him have His way in our lives! If all these things can happen to Peter, one of the hand-chosen ones, what about us – how will we measure up? We are truly saved and being saved by Grace, not by any works of our own!!



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## Not I but Christ

*" I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved [ agaped ] me and gave Himself for me" Galatians 2:20*

Significantly, the Holy Spirit says this through Paul in his public censorship of Peter and the Jews who had become Christians but were wanting to re-establish the temple cultus into the *ekklesia* ( assembly of the called-out ones ). Read this in Galatians Chapter 2. The danger of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees and of Herod was very much alive! So much so that even in Ephesus Paul warns, *" For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also, from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears."* Acts 20: 29 –31

It is my very firm belief that the true history of the *ekklesia* remains unwritten – persecuted men and their households struggled to stay alive whilst remaining true to Christ.

First, the persecutions came from the Jews, against Jewish converts to Christianity – household, door-to-door visitations are featured Acts 8:1-3, Acts Chpt 15, Letter of Galatians It came from the pagan, devil worshipers against the Christians who came out of paganism Acts 19

Then again it came from despotic Roman Emperors, such as Nero in 62AD who set fire to Rome and blamed it on Christians – they then became the scapegoats and objects of intense persecutions as described in Hebrews. This lasted right up to the third Century. Hebrews 11: 35- 40

Then finally it came from within the rank and file of the *ekklesia* ( meeting of men and their households – 'The called-out ones') leaving a few faithful men and their households to soldier on. Acts 20:29-31, 1 Timothy 4:1-5, 2 Peter 2:1, 1 John 2:18-22, 4:1-6

The destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem by Rome in AD70 marked the intensifying of religious persecutions by Roman Emperors lasting right up to 300AD when Emperor Constantine made himself head of the ("Christian") Roman Church and established the ultimate aim of the Jewish and Pagan Temple builders – a rebuilding of the Temple system ( much like King Henry 8<sup>th</sup> who made himself the head of the Anglican Church of England ). The age of massive Cathedrals and the formal Church system and the integration of State and Church was now a political and religious reality. The Temple cultus now dominated all aspects of life – "outside the church – no salvation!". True believers were now truly persecuted by the Roman "Christian" Church. The despotic Babylonian system was now firmly entrenched in world history.

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## Persecution a way of life to Holiness

For Christians, *The Way, The Truth and The Life* in Jesus Christ is an extremely humbling walk through this world – not as a permanent resident or citizen of this world but as a sojourner or a nomadic tent dweller. Purification or sanctifying is a painful process – one of refining under intense heat. Many refuse to walk this walk. The choices are often very subtle – the end result, avoidance for many, is devastatingly tragic. It is easy to tip-toe in the shadows, and not come out and walk into the light.

Jesus Christ said:

*"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you" If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.'*

*If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.*

*If they kept My word they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me."* **John 15: 18-20.** Read the whole Chapter.

God's Word says:

*"For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps"* **1 Peter 2: 21**

*"....In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by many trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honour, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith – the salvation of your souls "* **1 Peter 1: 6 – 9**

The road to holiness is a road littered with the bodies of fallen saints who would not die to themselves. Many are called but few chosen **Matthew 20:16** . But only those whose righteousness exceeds that of the Sadducees and Pharisees will make it into Heaven, the Promised Land **Matthew 5:20**.

We can make it, through the power of the Holy Spirit – the spirit of Jesus Christ – the suffering servant, wrapped in the gentle protective arms of our dearest Heavenly Father. We can make it not trusting in ourselves, but in Him who indwells us , the Triune God head.

## And for the final word.....

Jesus Christ says in the Beatitudes **Mathew 5: 1-12** :

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*" Blessed are the poor ( those who know their spiritual helplessness) for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are those who mourn ( are sorrowful for their sins and sinfulness ) for they shall be comforted*

*Blessed are the meek ( those who become angry at sin ) for they shall inherit the earth.*

*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness ( are in active combat with sin - who want above all else to have and to keep the Lamb over themselves), for they shall be filled.*

*Blessed are the merciful ( those who have empathy with those suffering from sin ) for they shall obtain mercy.*

*Blessed are the pure in heart ( have clean and pure hearts and hands ) for they shall see God.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers ( who take the gospel of peace and reconciliation in Jesus Christ ) For they shall be called the sons of God.*

*Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake ( for having the Lamb over them ) For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.*

*Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. " Matthew 5: 1 – 12*

The blessings are literally having the fullness of Christ ( the Anointed One – His anointing Spirit ) within us, the One who is *" full of grace and truth "* John 1: 14.

Knowing that we have Him abiding, dwelling in us and covering us is all that we will ever need! John 14: 16, 21

Knowing that we are heaven bound is all we ever need to know John 14:1, Revelations Chapters 21 & 22

Fishing for fish satisfies the tummy for today. Fishing for men, hand-in-hand with our Saviour Jesus Christ, is an honourable vocation, satisfying the whole person for eternity.

**Hallelujah! Maranatha!** ( Jesus Christ Come again! )

END