

WHAT WAS IN MAN?

By: David A. Sargent

John 2:24-25, “But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because **he knew all men**, And needed not that any should testify of man: for **he knew what was in man.**”

Jesus Christ knew all men and he knew what was in man. These are quite remarkable statements to make if Jesus Christ was just an ordinary man. These statements could only be made of someone that had foreknowledge. Someone that had preeminence and God like insight: Matthew 12:25, “And **Jesus knew their thoughts**, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand.” See it said that Jesus knew their thoughts! That is quite remarkable, and again: Luke 6:8, “But **he knew their thoughts**, and said to the man which had the withered hand, Rise up, and stand forth in the midst. And he arose and stood forth.” As a past tense event he already knew their thoughts; and knows their thoughts in a real time event as well: Matthew 9:4, “And **Jesus knowing their thoughts** said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?” and Luke 11:17, “But **he, knowing their thoughts**, said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and a house divided against a house falleth.”

So what is it that is in man that kept the lord from committing himself to them? Psalms 118:8, “It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.” The thing that showed up in man is **evil**: Genesis 6:5, “And GOD saw that **the wickedness of man was great in the earth**, and **that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.**” And Genesis 8:21, “And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for **the imagination of man's heart is**

evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.” The Lord could not trust men with the mystery yet because of **the enemy that was in man**. Jeremiah 10:23, “O LORD, I know that **the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps**.” Man can’t take care of his own way; much less the Lord’s. That is why we cannot save ourselves, we needed help. The Lord knew this about man. Man had departed from the Lord and for man to be reconciled; Jesus Christ’s true ministry had to be concealed till it was accomplished. Jeremiah 17:5, “Thus saith the LORD; **Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.**” Romans 16:25-27, “Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, **according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith**: To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.” That mystery is “...the obedience of faith...” in light of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ: 1 Corinthians 2:7-8, “But **we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.**”

The trouble is that in men resides SIN, SINS, SINFULNESS, and the express motions of sins: Romans 7:5, “For when we were **in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.**” The fruit of which is DEATH. It is both spiritual and physical; because all sin is against God (spiritually) and against ourselves (physically) and against our own souls.

Romans 7:18, “For I know that in me (**that is, in my flesh,**) **dwelleth no good thing**: for to **will** is present with me; but **how to perform that which is good I find not.**” Not even the life giving element in our flesh is any good. The blood-line of Adam is tainted by sin and death. It just said that I know that in my flesh dwelleth no good thing, and your blood is in your flesh! IT is NO GOOD! Your birth is no good.

You must be born again:

John 3:6, “That which is **born of the flesh is flesh**; and that which is **born of the Spirit is spirit.**”

John 6:63, “It is **the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing**: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”

John 3:7, “Marvel not that I said unto thee, **Ye must be born again.**”

After you are born again, now you have power to walk after the Spirit, and NOT walk after the flesh: Romans 8:1, “There is therefore now no condemnation to them **which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.**”

The flesh is weak, sinful; but God sent his Son to condemn sin in the flesh: Romans 8:3-14, “For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, **God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh**: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, **who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit**. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, **if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you**. Now **if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his**. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. **Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live**. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and **make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.**”

Keep yourself clean: 2 Corinthians 7:1, “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us **cleans ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**” 1 John 1:5-10, “This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that **God is light, and in him is no darkness at all**. If we say that we have **fellowship** with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and **do not the truth**: But **if we walk in the light, as he is in the**

light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that 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.** If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”

We do not fight the flesh of others; so that our warfare is not carnal: 2 Corinthians 10:3-6, “For though we walk in the flesh, **we do not war after the flesh:** (For the weapons of our warfare **are not carnal**, but mighty through God to **the pulling down of strong holds**;) **Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;** And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.”

We do war against our own flesh: Galatians 2:20, “**I am crucified** with Christ: nevertheless **I live**; yet **not I**, but **Christ liveth in me**: and **the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God**, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” Our flesh is not perfect and we cannot expect it to make us perfect even after salvation: Galatians 3:3-7, “Are ye so foolish? **having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?** Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain. **He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?** Even as Abraham believed God, and **it was accounted to him for righteousness**. Know ye therefore that **they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.**”

Galatians 4:23, “But he who was of the **bondwoman was born after the flesh**; but **he of the freewoman was by promise.**” This allegory shows the flesh and spirit are at war with one another. Galatians 4:29, “But **as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit**, even so it is now.” The war that is in the believer against the flesh and spirit is good evidence that you are born of God. Galatians 5:16-17, “This I say then, **Walk in the Spirit**, and ye shall **not fulfil the lust of the flesh**. For **the flesh lusteth against the Spirit**, and **the Spirit against the flesh**: and these are **contrary** the one to the other: so that ye **cannot do the things that ye would.**” Again it is a daily dying to self will: Galatians 5:24, “And **they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.**” 1 Corinthians 15:31, “I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, **I die daily.**”

The law of sowing and reaping is in life for the saved and lost alike. However the saved can reap a better thing: Galatians 6:8, “For he that soweth to his flesh shall **of the flesh reap corruption**; but **he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting**.” This reaping is an inheritance: not everlasting life; notice it is life everlasting. They are not the same. Everlasting life is a free gift; you have that once you are born of God; reaping in that life everlasting is a very different thing.

Remember where you came from, but don't dwell on it too much: Ephesians 2:3, “Among whom also we all had our conversation **in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath**, even as others.” and Ephesians 2:11-13, “Wherefore **remember**, that **ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh**, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh **made by hands**; That at that time **ye were without Christ, being aliens** from the commonwealth of Israel, and **strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope**, and **without God in the world**: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off **are made nigh by the blood of Christ**.” Never forget what you are: Isaiah 51:1, “Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD: **look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged**.” And draw others out: Jude 1:22-23, “And of some **have compassion, making a difference**: And **others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh**.”

Have no confidence in the flesh: Philippians 3:3, “For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and **have no confidence in the flesh**.”

You have been cut loose from the body of the sins of the flesh: Colossians 2:8-12, “**Beware** lest any man spoil you through **philosophy** and vain **deceit**, after the **tradition of men**, after the **rudiments of the world**, and **not after Christ**. For **in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily**. And **ye are complete in him**, which is the head of all principality and power: In whom also **ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands**, in **putting off the body of the sins of the flesh** by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him **through the faith of the operation of God**, who hath raised him from the dead.”

So you see Jesus Christ paid it all for you: the just for the unjust: 1 Peter 3:18, “For Christ also hath **once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust**, that he might bring us to God, **being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.**” by the suffering wherewith he suffered: 1 Peter 4:1-2, “Forasmuch then as **Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh**, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for **he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin**; That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.”

The gospel is that Jesus Christ died, and was buried and rose again from the dead; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, “For I delivered unto you first of all **that which I also received**, how that **Christ died for our sins** according to the scriptures; And **that he was buried**, and **that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.**” and that God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself and offers YOU salvation through Jesus Christ; but YOU must receive HIM: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, “Therefore if any man be **in Christ, he is a new creature**: old things are passed away; **behold, all things are become new**. And all things are of God, **who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ**, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that **God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them**; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, **be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.**”

How do you “...be reconciled to God.”? It is as simple as A, B, C!

- A. Admit you are a sinner before a Holy Lord God Almighty and you cannot trust your own self-righteousness.
 - a. Romans 3:23, “**For all have sinned**, and come short of the glory of God;”
 - b. Romans 5:12, “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, **for that all have sinned.**”
 - c. Luke 5:32, “I came not to call the righteous, but **sinner**s to repentance.”
- B. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ by receiving His payment for your sins; trusting only in Him fully, completely and sincerely.

- a. Romans 10:3-4, “For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. **For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.**”
 - b. Acts 16:30-31, “And brought them out, and said, Sirs, **what must I do to be saved?** And they said, **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved,** and thy house.”
 - c. 1 John 5:13, “**These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.**”
 - d. John 1:12-13, “**But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God,** even to them that believe on his name: **Which were born,** not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but **of God.**”
- C. Confess the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal saviour to other believers; giving testimony to your faith in Christ.
- a. Matthew 10:32, “**Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.**”
 - b. 1 John 4:15, “Whosoever shall **confess that Jesus is the Son of God,** God dwelleth in him, and he in God.”
 - c. Romans 10:9-10, “**That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.** For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and **with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**”

God made salvation simple; and anyone can be saved, no matter what you have done in the past, because it is not about what you have done, but what you are. You are a sinner and everyone is in that same boat. That is why we all need a savior. Jesus Christ can save you from a devil's hell fire and damnation. Salvation is open for you today, but after death... it will be too late. Hebrews 9:27, “And as it is **appointed unto men** once to **die**, but after this the **judgment:**”

Come to the Lord Jesus Christ just as you are – if you take Him, He will take you. John 6:37, “All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and **him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.**” He offers ETERNAL LIFE: John 10:28, “And I

give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.” It is signed, sealed, and waiting for you to pick up! It is free gift: Romans 6:23, “For the wages of sin is death; but **the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**” But you can reject it. Please don’t do that. It would be the best thing you can ever do to RECEIVE Him today. Receive the free gift of God before it is too late: Ephesians 2:8-9, “For **by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works**, lest any man should boast.” You cannot work for it: your works give you wages; and the wages of sin is death. Revelation 20:14-15, “And **death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.** And whosoever was not found written in the book of life **was cast into the lake of fire.**” And you don’t want to be cast into the lake of fire! If you reject this offer, it could be the last time you get a chance to receive Him and you will pay for your own sins: Revelation 21:8, “But the **fearful**, and **unbelieving**, and the **abominable**, and **murderers**, and **whoremongers**, and **sorcerers**, and **idolaters**, and **all liars**, **shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.**” But you don’t have to go there to find out that it is real: believe what God has said in the Bible, because it is written just for YOU: 1 John 5:11-13, “And **this is the record**, that God hath **given** to us **eternal life**, and **this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life**; and **he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you** that believe on the name of the Son of God; **that ye may know that ye have eternal life**, and **that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.**” That name is The Lord Jesus Christ: believe on Him Today!

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