

Chapter One: Jesus Christ the Savior of the World

The most important issue facing every human-being born into the world is the salvation of the soul. This is the most urgent need for all men, young or old. What is the meaning of life? Who made me? Why am I here? Why must I die? Why is there suffering? How can I escape a guilty conscience and sense of condemnation? How can I have lasting peace and happiness? How can I get the power and wisdom to live a good life? These are among the many questions asked by people of all nationalities and backgrounds. The good news is that there is an answer to these questions. The answer is Jesus Christ the Savior of the world.

I would like to start this chapter by saying that this chapter is the most important chapter in this whole book. The reason this chapter is the most important is because it contains the most important promise in the Bible, John 6:47. “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.” This simple promise is like water to a thirsty and parched land. This verse is simple enough that even a child can understand it and it's gentle enough that even the chief of sinners can take hope and refuge in it. Jesus is the Savior and these are the words of his salvation. These are the words that he saves men with. I would like to spend the rest of this chapter examining this verse. So, if you need a Savior and if you are tired and weary of your sin and if you need a new life, then please receive the things that are written in this chapter. I believe Jesus and I know that he is the Savior of the world and I know that he desires to save you just as you are right now.

Let me ask you a question: Why did Jesus come into the world? The Apostle Paul answers this question when he says, “This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” (1 Timothy 1:15) In fact, the name Jesus itself is interpreted to mean “Savior” or “God is salvation.” We read in Matthew 1:21 “And she shall bring forth

a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.” Likewise “Christ” refers to the “anointed one” who was to save Israel. This is very important information because if we are to be saved, we must see Jesus as 100% Savior and nothing else. I know that he is Lord and Master and Teacher, but if we are to be saved, we must see him as Savior and nothing else. Jesus’ death on the cross shows us that he is Savior. We must receive this message. In addition, we also find a very important verse in Luke 2:11. “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.” This verse teaches us that Jesus is Lord, but also that he decided to become the Savior. The Lord becomes Savior. We don’t make Jesus Lord so that he can become our Savior. Rather, he is Lord already, but he decided to become Savior. Jesus is Master, but he decided to become a servant. We must see him as Savior. He came so that we would see him as Savior. It was Jesus’ own choice to come into the world and become Savior. Who did he come to save? “He came to save sinners.” (1 Timothy 1:15) A sinner is a person who can’t call Jesus “Lord.” In fact, the Bible teaches that those who are saved were dead in sin and enemies of God. (Ephesians 2:1 and Romans 5:10) This is exactly why we must see Jesus as Savior. Jesus came to save people who can’t repent or promise to do better. Jesus came to save people who can’t pick up their crosses and follow him. A sinner has no power at all and can do nothing good for the Lord. So, knowing that Jesus came to save is truly wonderful news. Are you tired and weary and sick? Are you stuck in a cycle of ups and downs with no sign of freedom? Are you heavy burdened with sin and guilt? Do you fear death and damnation? If yes, then you need a Savior now. If you don’t need a Savior, then you can’t be saved. Jesus didn’t come for people who merely want their lives changed. He came for people who need a completely new life.

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.” (John 6:47) This is probably the simplest promise given in the Bible. Jesus has made it simple for us. Jesus himself

testified that the Kingdom of heaven is for little children and that we must receive it as little children. (Luke 18:16-17) Thus, we must receive this promise of everlasting life as little children and just believe that Jesus is able to do what he promised. (Romans 4:21) If we receive this one verse as little children by just believing it, we will then know the salvation of God and we will truly know that the death of Jesus Christ was fully sufficient to take away our sins and reconcile us. We will then know complete freedom from sin, strength of mind, love, godliness, and peace that runs like a river. You may be asking yourself, “How?” and “How do you interpret all of that out of this one scripture?” Well, in light of the fact that Jesus knew completely well what his death on the cross was going to accomplish when he spoke these words, I'm also going to try to explain what this verse means with full consideration given to the accomplished work of the cross. Words are just words and promises are just promises, but the promise of Jesus Christ is bought and paid for with his own blood. The death and resurrection are our assurance that his words are indeed true. In other words, our trust in Jesus Christ is grounded and settled on the cross of Calvary, which was an act displayed openly for the whole world to see and confirm. And, as God is faithful, the Bible and all of recorded history do indeed confirm the truthfulness of the message of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Therefore, let's take courage and let's believe the promise of Jesus.

With due consideration given to the above explanation, I am going to spend the rest of this chapter examining the promise found in John 6:47, for it is in this verse that we come to know the salvation of Jesus Christ. This verse tells us what salvation is, when we can come to receive it, who the implementer of it is, and how one comes to obtain it. I would like to quickly go over these four points as well as briefly describe the significance of receiving this promise. If we cover these five areas, we will have a better understanding of the greatness of this promise. So, first, let's just

take a look at what this verse says, and then after we do that, we can proceed to understand the significance of receiving this promise and the effects it has on our lives.

Let's start by looking at what this verse says about salvation. What is salvation? "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life." Everlasting life is salvation. The reason I say this is because all human beings die. All humans have fear and sense condemnation. Death is an enemy that no man has been able to defeat and the power of death is sin. (1 Corinthians 15:56) Humans need to be saved from death and condemnation. So, in this respect, everlasting life is the salvation that humans need. Now, I have no intention of trying to explain the glories of everlasting life, but I would like to propose two undeniable facts about it. First, everlasting life is good. Life is good. This is a fact that no man can deny. Only those who live their lives in bitterness and darkness would try to deny this fact. These types of people have no idea what true life is. Living in bitterness and darkness is not true life. True life is good. Second, those who possess everlasting life lack nothing. Life is good, but everlasting life is infinitely good where there is no darkness or death. There is no fear of losing something that is everlasting and there is no need to gain something if you possess that which is infinitely good.

Jesus came into the world and died for our sins on the cross so that we could live. His death on the cross bought us the right to everlasting life, and we see the power of this life in his resurrection. Knowing this man is life. Not only this, but the Apostle John, in his first letter, tells us that Jesus Christ himself is everlasting life and that eternal life dwells in him. (1 John 5:11 and 5:20) So, everlasting life is Jesus himself and all that he is. It is true, immortal, flawless, blessed, virtuous, good, lovely, and whatever other good things there may be. There are not enough words in all of the languages of the world to describe the breadth, length, depth, and height of everlasting life, which is Jesus Christ himself.

Next, let's take a look at what the verse says about when we can come to receive this salvation. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life." This verse says "hath," which is an older English form of the word "has." The word "hath" is in the present tense. This is truly glorious news. Salvation may have been glorious enough if Jesus had said, "He that believeth on me 'will have' everlasting life," but to our joy and relief he says, "He that believeth on me 'hath' everlasting life." Now is the accepted time and now is the day of salvation. (2 Corinthians 6:2) Amen. The day of our salvation is today. Thus, it is a mistake to think that the glories of salvation can only be enjoyed once we enter heaven. The perfection of everlasting life is something that is for today. We must realize this and receive this truth if we are to find perfect freedom of salvation in this world. I know that the glories in heaven will exceed the glories on earth just as our heavenly bodies will exceed the glory of our earthy bodies, but the glory of this salvation which we can experience now is also eternal in its power and greatness.

Let's move on to what this verse says about who the implementer of this salvation is. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life." Who is "me" in this verse? It is Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the initiator, implementer, and giver of our salvation. Please note that in this verse Jesus didn't say, "He that believeth on 'God' hath everlasting life." He also didn't say, "He that believeth 'the teachings of XYZ Church' hath everlasting life." Jesus clearly says, "me." To whom are we looking? Are our eyes on someone or something other than Jesus? If so, no wonder there is so much weakness. No wonder there are so many confessions of sin being made day after day and week after week without end. If our eyes are focused on the Father, the Holy Ghost, the apostles, or anyone else, it is no wonder that there is no perfect freedom of salvation. If our Bible studies mainly consist of learning about theological systems, the law, the grace of God, dispensations, covenants, history, or any other thing, it is no

wonder that there is so much dullness and weakness and sickness. I am not saying that these things are bad, in fact, they are wonderful, but our eyes and minds must be fixed upon the Savior Jesus and nothing else. If we do this, we will see more clearly to understand the rest of God's plans for the world. However, everything is centered on Jesus. He is all in all. Hallelujah!

Finally, let's take a look at what this verse says about how one comes to obtain salvation. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life." We come to obtain this salvation by "believing." This is glorious news because this makes salvation accessible to all. Are you heavy burdened with sin and powerless to even try to repent? Are you at the end of your rope and see no hope at all? This salvation is especially for you. Not only this, but we can enter into salvation instantaneously the moment we see Jesus the Savior and put our trust in him. Not to sound repetitive, but please note that Jesus didn't say, "He that 'follows' me hath everlasting life." He also didn't say, "He that 'makes me Lord of his life' hath everlasting life." Nor did he say, "He that 'prays and waits and seeks and makes promises' hath everlasting life." In the simplest of words, Jesus says "believe." This is a word that even a child can understand, so we need not think that "believe" has some dark and hidden meaning. In a verse similar to John 6:47, we read, "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." (John 1:12) In this verse, we read, "believe on his name." That's it and nothing else. We must interpret the word "believe" to mean exactly what it means in its most natural and basic sense. We must receive this verse as little children. Thank God this verse says "believe." Anyone can come into the fullness of true salvation here and now.

Before we look at the applications of the promise, I would just like to briefly describe the significance of receiving a promise from God. Paul tells us in his letter to the Hebrews that God's promises are immutable, which means that they can in no way be

cancelled. (Hebrews 6:16-18) This means that the recipients of a promise can rest assured that the promise will be performed in its entirety. Once again, here's the promise given to us: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life." Notice that Jesus qualifies his promise by the words "Verily, verily." It is as if he wanted to alleviate any doubt and solidify the certainty of what he was about to say. The promises of Jesus cannot fail. Jesus confirmed this when he said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." (Luke 21:33) Let's take rest in the promise given us, for it cannot fail.

Now at this point, someone might object and say, "While it is true that there are some wonderful promises given to us by Jesus, it is also true that Jesus himself has many hard things to say such as the need for us to pick up our own crosses and follow him. He also said that we need to hate our own fathers, mothers, wives, siblings, children, and even our own lives for his sake." (Luke 14:25-33) This cannot be denied. Jesus says some soft and kind things, but he also says some hard and severe things. Not only this, but later on in the Bible some of the apostles including Paul, and especially James, have some particularly strong reproofs and rebukes for people in the church who are not walking lawfully. Even more yet, Jesus himself in the Book of Revelation makes threats to churches and individuals who have backslidden. So, it is true that even when a wonderful promise is given to us, it may be followed up by many fearful threats, reproofs, and hard sayings. Can the fearful and hard verses cancel the promise? Or can threats and judgments cancel the promise? No way. God forbid. Nothing can cancel the promise. The promise trumps all else. Wasn't it the same way in the Old Testament? Abraham received a promise, but afterwards the law came. Did the law cancel the promise? No, it didn't. Paul explains this very thing when he says, "And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect."

(Galatians 3:17) In fact, probably over 99% of the Old Testament is about law. Can God's own word cancel his promise? No way. Paul goes on to explain in the same chapter of Galatians that the law and everything else that we find in the Bible in no way contradict the promise. "Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid." (Galatians 3:21) The problem often is that when we read the Bible, we often see things through the lens of the law instead of the lens of faith in Jesus Christ. Things are no different in the New Testament. That is why verses like John 6:47 and Luke 14:25-33 seem to contradict each other. The truth is, however, that men cannot do what Jesus says in Luke 14:25-33. But if they just believe the promise of John 6:47, the things that Jesus speaks of in Luke 14:25-33 become possible and even natural. So, we see that nothing can cancel the promise that has been given to us. Therefore, let's hold on tight to it and never give it up. Let's believe it regardless of what our eyes may see and regardless of what our feelings or our own hearts may tell us. Many men and devils would like to rob us of this promise, but we cannot relinquish it or give it away. We cannot compromise it even in the slightest way. This promise is ours and we are going to our deaths with it in hand. We must fix our hearts on this. We must believe that Jesus is faithful to do that which he promised. (Romans 4:21) We see the cross and resurrection and receive assurance that this man Jesus is the Savior of the world and that he is faithful and true. He will do that which he promised. His salvation, which he bought for us at the cross, is imparted to us by faith in him. This is what this promise in John 6:47 teaches. Let's take hold of it and hold onto it with all of our strength.

Now that we have laid the groundwork for this verse and also looked at the significance of receiving a promise, let's look at what some of the effects and applications of the promise are in our lives. It would be impossible to list all of them, so I'd like to just mention a few of the greatest and most glorious.

First and foremost, we come into a relationship of peace, love,

dependency, and friendship with Jesus. “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.” Jesus is salvation. Jesus is everlasting life. Jesus is heaven. Jesus is what we get and he is our portion from God. We receive salvation by believing on him. Oh, we trust him with our past, present, and future. Receiving him is like falling in love. Yes, salvation is romantic and he is the lover of our souls! John tells us in his first letter that “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.” (1 John 5:1) The moment we believe in Jesus we are made alive. We are raised from the dead and receive a new life. (Ephesians 2:1) We awake to behold our Savior. He is so near that it is as if we are face to face. We know that it is he who has given us life and loved us. He becomes our all in all, our breath, our only desire. The sweetest times of the day are when we are daydreaming about him or singing his praises with brothers and sisters. We are one in him, and his body, which is the church, is altogether lovely. He is the head and we are the body. He is in us and we are in him. He is everything. We grow in his knowledge, his love, and his grace, and our greatest desire becomes just to be with him. There is none besides him and our prayers unite as we say “Come quickly!”

I think that the following poem will clarify what I am trying to say more than a thousand page book trying to explain the same thing. This poem describes our mind in Jesus Christ:

Yearning, longing, sighing for the perfection of the body and the return of Jesus

Empty my heart and sacrifice my body for our body

Oh, for greater intimacy with the body

We would worship him and lay our lives down

Give me Jesus or give me death

He made himself known to me and helped me

He touched me

He comforted me

I saw horror face to face and made my bed with death
He helped me
Let's come together and let's thank him
Let's love each other and make sacrifices for one another
Let's receive one another
Let's know him and long for him so that heaven and earth pass
away and there we are face to face; we fall down before the man
and know that he is God and none else; he sustains us and we melt
away in a sweet abode
Tears of joy and heart cryings and breakings go before him
because he is altogether beautiful
His beauty is radiant and he is white and clean and pure — oh,
sacred heart; he is a good man and we need him
He is the breath of our nostrils and our breath and he takes our
breath away
He is our life and he is life
Teach me your love and take my heart away
Your love is brilliant
Teach me your love — I long for it
Teach me your heart and tell me you love me
Tell me you desire me and long for me
Tell me you can't bear to be without me and I am your joy
I am the Rose of Sharon, the lily of the fields
You desire to meet me and spend time with me
Let my heart always be the same and I'll spend eternity in your
presence; I'll always be before you

Jesus is our portion for all eternity. If he isn't our greatest desire, then our hearts are in the wrong place. Can two lovers be separated by the great sea and not long to see one another? Wouldn't their only desire be to be together again? However, what if they had a chance to be together, but they said, "No thank you. We prefer being separated"? Can we call this love? Some might, but I know that many more would doubt their love as being not

genuine. It is the same with us and Jesus. We are now separated, but isn't our greatest desire to be with him face to face? Don't we want to hasten the day of his return? (Hebrews 9:28 and 2 Peter 3:12) Jesus is our greatest treasure and he is our delight and daydream.

As recipients of everlasting life, which is Jesus Christ himself, we are complete. Having received Jesus and the fullness of him, we have attained God's calling for us. In other words, there is no need for you to become some "great spiritual one," for you are great and there is no man above you. You possess Jesus and you are to spend the rest of your life enjoying him. In Jesus, there is equality, and all believers in him possess the same thing, which is Jesus himself. There is never any reason to feel inferior. Just open your eyes and see Jesus, for he is your great prize and inheritance.

Okay, I think we'll move on to the next effect of the promise. All who believe in Jesus receive power. If you possess everlasting life, can anything hurt you? If you possess everlasting life, is there any reason for weakness? Absolutely not, and we have to believe this. Everlasting life is what we are promised. We learn in the Bible that Jesus Christ was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by the power of God. (2 Corinthians 13:4) We likewise are weak, but through his resurrection, we become direct participants in the power of God. We live, not in the crucified Christ, but in the resurrected Christ. (Romans 6:4-5) He died for us at the cross and bought our redemption through his own blood. Yet, he didn't stay dead. He rose again! The Bible teaches that we no longer live, but Christ lives in us. (Galatians 2:20 and Colossians 1:27) This is the resurrected Christ who lives in us, and we live in the power of this living Christ.

There is no excuse for weakness in our lives, since we are partakers of this everlasting life, which is Jesus Christ himself. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life." We really have to get this into our heads that we are indeed partakers of life. Though there be a thousand voices

against us and though our emotions are always changing, we must believe that we have the power of everlasting life to reign in life and reign over all the enemies of our minds. "...They which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ." (Romans 5:17) In John 6:45, just two verses before our promise, Jesus says, "It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God..." (John 6:45) This verse is found in Isaiah 54:13. "And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children." In this same passage of scripture we also read, "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD." (Isaiah 54:17) I love this verse because it gives us a small glimpse of just how wonderful the inheritance of those who are taught by God the Father to believe on Jesus Christ is. Can any enemy hurt us? Can depression or sin defeat you? Never, for it is written that "no weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper"! Is there something or someone that just keeps nagging your conscious? Are you being accused? Are you accusing yourself? Do you feel guilty? Impossible, for it is written that "every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn." Do you have to try harder and keep making resolutions to sacrifice everything for God? Do you have to keep repenting again and again? No way, for it is written that "their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD." Are these earned through hard work or obtained through one's own striving for masteries? No, these things are received as an inheritance for free, for it is written, "This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD." Now, let me just say that this is the inheritance of the servants of the Lord, so can we even begin to imagine how much greater the inheritance of the sons of God is? (John 1:12) The sons of the God receive an inheritance of everlasting life through Jesus Christ. Are you enjoying your inheritance? I hope so. If not, I would like you to

think about something. Let's imagine, for example, that a father gives his son an inheritance. How would that father feel if the son refused it or belittled it? That father would feel terrible to say the least. Well, it is exactly the same when we don't believe the Father who sent Jesus into the world. He has all of these good things for us, which he has given to us in Jesus, but if we remain in weakness and unbelief, it is as if we are refusing his goodness. If your father has prepared steak and lobster and the choicest of wines for you, but you prefer to eat stale bread and drink muddied water, how would he feel? He would feel devastated. So, let's take hold of our inheritance. Yea, rather, let's take hold of it with violence! (Matthew 11:12)

Let's look at a few verses that speak particularly about us receiving power through belief in Jesus. In John 1:12 we read, "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." Power to become the sons of God. Can a son of God do any evil? No, a son of God is perfect. We receive power. Another verse is found in Romans 1:16. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Do you need salvation? Are you experiencing salvation? Well, let me tell you that if you have no power, then you are not experiencing salvation. If you are in trouble, any kind of trouble, and you need salvation, then you need the power of God. How does one receive this power? By believing the Gospel of Christ! One more verse that speaks of the power that is given us through Jesus is 2 Timothy 1:7. "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." We as believers in Jesus have these things. We do not need to act like we are still trying to obtain them. Let's live in the power of this salvation which is through faith in the Savior!

Another result of believing in Jesus is that we become perfect. Now I know that it is mostly taught that we acquire a "positional perfection" before God. From my experiences with this teaching,

it is usually taught that we are perfect in our standing before God on account of Jesus' sacrifice for us, yet still sinful in our daily lives. The doctrine usually goes on to teach that believers spend their whole lives going through a stage of "relative perfection" where they are matured or sanctified (made holy) little by little. "Ultimate perfection" isn't attained until we receive our resurrected spiritual bodies and enter into a glorified state.

The sum of the above doctrine, therefore, is that although we are perfect before God, we spend our whole lives on earth going from one sinful state to a little less sinful state, mourning in our bodies until our final redemption when we receive a sinless and perfect spiritual body. I would like to say, however, that to the extent that my understanding of this doctrine is correct, it is absolutely rubbish. I say this because the Bible teaches that we do not go from sin to sin in this life, but we go from glory to glory. (2 Corinthians 3:18) Isn't this the whole point of being set free from sin? (John 8:33-36) If we "have" everlasting life, what darkness can there be? What imperfection can there be if we "have" everlasting life right now? "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life."

Before I go on and explain what I mean in greater detail, I would just like to clarify that I am not saying that it is impossible for Christians to sin. However, I am saying that it is possible for Christians not to sin. Not only is it possible, but it is natural for Christians to consistently live without sin in their daily lives. Living a good and holy life that is completely free from sin is what we should expect. We are God's workmanship, created unto good works in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:1)

Now, I could show you a long list of scriptures from the Bible to prove that we become perfect not only in a "positional-sense," but also in an experimental-sense (perfect in our day-to-day lives). However, I will not. Instead of giving you a long list of verses to look up in the Bible to show you that Christians are indeed perfect and sinless, I would much rather you just believe what Jesus says

in John 6:47. “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.” These words are very simple and clear. So, let’s hold on to this promise and let’s not give it up regardless of whatever you read, hear, or are taught.

I realize that many people will object and say, “But I am in fact sinful and no matter how hard I try, I still fall into sin.” I would like to say emphatically that the reason you see yourself as a sinner and have no freedom from sin is simply because you don’t believe that Jesus has done, is doing, and will continue doing what he said he would do for those who believe on him. Jesus came to forgive you, set you free from sin, and give you everlasting life. Let me just say that if you continue to believe that you are still a sinner, you will be a sinner. However, if you believe that you are made the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ, then you will live righteously. Let me just say again that if you profess faith in Jesus, but still see yourself as a sinner, your sinfulness comes from the fact that you have received and believe an inferior gospel, and thus, continue to go on in weakness and negative thought instead of child-like faith in the promise of Jesus Christ. You continue to look at yourself through the lens of the law instead of the lens of faith in Jesus. If Jesus has promised us everlasting life, why should we doubt him? Yea, let heaven and earth deny, but we will believe. Regardless of what your eyes may see or your ears might hear, believe! Regardless of what your heart or conscience might say, believe! Regardless of what evil spirits might whisper in your ear, believe! Regardless of what accusations might pop up in your heart, believe! We believe that we have everlasting life and are perfect according to the promise Jesus made himself.

Okay, once again, I think I better make clarification here just so that people do not misunderstand the point of what I am saying. We can expect to live righteously and perfectly because of what Jesus did for us on the cross. However, we can never rest or take comfort in how well we are living. Rather, our eyes always have to

be on the cross. The shed blood of Jesus Christ is our only righteousness. As I mentioned above, I am not saying that it is impossible for Christians to sin. I am only saying that it is possible and much more natural for Christians not to sin. So, what should we do if we were to sin? Or what should we do if we feel convicted by sin? (Whether convictions of sin are really on account of sin, I don't know. It could just be the devil whispering groundless accusations into the heart and ears.) In such a case of either true or imaginary sin, our eyes must not turn from the cross. We must not get carried away with emotion or, worse yet, despair. The cross has always been our only resting place and we have been completely forgiven on account of it. There is no need for sorrowing, no need for penance, no need to ask for forgiveness. Our sins have been completely paid for and forgiven because of the cross. We see the cross and know that everything is okay. We then continue on living and expecting the perfection of Jesus Christ to be with us in our day-to-day lives. True righteousness, sinlessness, and perfection are ours in Jesus and we have to expect to live sinless and in holiness before our God.

I would now like all believers in Jesus Christ to think about something. What did the cross of Jesus Christ mean? Wasn't it the death of sin? Please read Romans 6:1-11 carefully, for these verses clearly say that sin is dead through the death of Jesus and that life is alive through the resurrection of Jesus. Now if we continue to believe that sin can exist and be a common element of our daily lives, we are essentially saying that the death of Jesus means nothing and that the cross has failed. If we continue to believe that we are still sinners and have to continually confess and repent our sins day after day and week after week, then we are basically saying that Jesus' death was meaningless. Furthermore, we would be essentially living as they did in the Old Testament before the death of Jesus. In the Old Testament there were sacrifices made for sins every day, which sacrifices could in no way cleanse the consciences of the people who sacrificed them. (Hebrews 10:1-3

and 10:11) The death of Jesus, however, was a once and for all sacrifice that has brought in perfection forever. (Hebrews 10:14) Therefore, if we keep telling ourselves and believing that we sin again and again and that confession and repentance need to be made over and over again, then we are essentially believing that the cross failed and is useless. We would be saying that the sacrifice at the cross is in all ways the same as the animal sacrifices made in the Old Testament. (This is essentially what we do when we plead his blood again and again. It is as if we are sacrificing Christ again and again.) However, Jesus died once so that we could be free from sin and a guilty conscience. He rose from the dead and lives. And we, likewise, live with him in true holiness and righteousness. We have a better promise than those Old Testament covenant keepers. (Hebrews 7:22) So, please believe Jesus and stop living so cowardly! “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.”

There may be some people at this point who are confused by what exactly I mean as perfection. As mentioned above, I do mean sinlessness. Sin is that which transgresses the law, and thus, sinlessness is that which fulfills the law of God. (1 John 3:4) However, that which fulfills the law is summed up in one word, namely, “love.” (Romans 13:10) We find in 2 Corinthians 3:18 that after we believe in Jesus, we are changed from glory to glory (not from one sinful state to another sinful state, which is a little less sinful). So, the meaning of being changed from glory to glory is that we are changed from one state of love to another state which has even more love. In other words, I love people today, but I will love people even more tomorrow as I am changed from glory to glory. This transformation from glory to glory continues throughout our entire lives. When the Lord Jesus finally returns, we will then enter a state of ultimate glorification.

I realize that talking about perfection is a sensitive and dangerous topic as some people might be tempted to be puffed up. However, there is no reason to be puffed up at all. In fact, when

Jesus Christ came to earth to die for the sins of men, he was not so much interested in making individual men holy and sinless as he was interested in making a perfect body (the church). (Acts 20:28 and Ephesians 5:25-27) In other words, Jesus has very little interest in individual righteousness, but his interest lies mainly in a corporate perfection and righteousness which is found in the whole body of believers. Thus, as long as there is some imperfection in the body as a whole, individual believers cannot be said to be ultimately perfect. We learn that the body will be continually perfected until we become perfect in one. (Ephesians 4:12-13) When Jesus finally returns we will be gathered up as one and presented to him as a perfect and holy and glorious church. (Ephesians 1:10 and Ephesians 5:25-27) When we see him face to face, we shall be united with our head and we shall ever remain perfect in one in him. Hallelujah!

To conclude this section on believers' perfection, I would just like to say again that ultimate perfection and glory is not found in individual believers, but in the body of believers. (John 17:23 and Hebrews 11:40) This is why we read so many times in the New Testament the commandment to love one another. (John 13:34, Romans 13:8, Ephesians 5:1-2, 1 John 3:11, etc.) Jesus' main purpose is to have us believers perfected in his body as we love one another, receive one another's love, and behold the glory of the Son of God. (John 17:23-24) The moment that all believers as a body become perfect in one is the moment that all individual believers experience ultimate perfection. Though a man be as a holy as an arch-angel or even as holy as Jesus himself, this profits him nothing as long as the body is incomplete and imperfect. (1 Corinthians 12:26) In fact, if a man were to think of himself as being as holy as an arch-angel when the rest of the body is suffering, he would be just deceiving himself, for he himself needs the love and nourishment that other members of the body can give him. In other words, we all need one another and there is no member of the body that is not needed. (1 Corinthians 12:20-27)

All members are equally essential and our ultimate perfection is found in becoming one in Jesus Christ our head. All members of the body grow up in our head, Jesus, through belief in him. The result of our faith in Jesus is that we live in his body and have mutual care and love for one another as he supplies us with his love and grace. (Ephesians 4:15-16)

The last thing I want to mention about the effects of the promise is that we receive freedom. More precisely, I would like to say that we receive freedom to rest and freedom to love. “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.” When you possess everlasting life, which is Jesus himself, you lack nothing and there is nothing more to seek after to acquire. Furthermore, you have nothing to fear. Thus, we can truly rest and we can truly love. These are two themes that I want to talk about later. However, for right now, I would still like to mention a few points about resting and loving.

The freedom to rest is a great privilege that we believers in Jesus possess. Jesus made an invitation to this rest when he said, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Rest is something that is directly related to salvation. In Hebrews 4, salvation is likened to entering into God's rest. Just as God rested on the seventh day of creation, we also are to cease from our own works to enter into the rest of God. (Hebrews 4:4,10) The weary can truly rest and know that God will bear the entire burden. Salvation is like entering into an eternal sabbath. Let all those who know this rest shout “Hallelujah!”

Personally, I also like to associate resting with peace of mind and stillness, so I particularly like the following verse found in the Isaiah 26. “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.” We have to understand that as believers in Jesus, it is our inheritance and right to partake in continuous peace and calmness. We should expect Jesus to keep us in this state of rest, regardless of what situation we find ourselves in. He is faithful to do it. However, at the same

time, resting is no obligation. In Jesus, we receive complete freedom, so a man may desire a time not to rest. This may be in a case of urgency such as when a fellow believer or family member is in great need. For love's sake, he feels a great sense of urgency and refuses rest as he relentlessly brings his petitions before the throne of the Lord and wears his own body trying to actually meet those needs to the extent that they are physically possible. The freedom to rest is still his, but the freedom he has to love may often, as it were, compel him to action.

This brings me to the next thing I would like to talk about. We receive the freedom to love. "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (1 John 4:10) We have received the freedom to love simply because we have received the free love of God. The love of God is seen in him loving unloving man. How does he do it? He does it by sending his Son into the world to redeem us and take the wrath of God upon himself for us! Many speak in a very general way about the love of God. They may talk about his love in providing us food and other necessities. However, this general sort of love is not the love of God, for this verse tells us plainly wherein we can find his love. Yes! We are pointed to the God who sent his Son. We can never properly speak of God if we have no knowledge of him as the God who sent his Son. We can never believe in God the Father if we don't first believe in God the Son. The Son of God has given us knowledge of the Father and has showed us his love. We didn't love him, but since he loved us first, we came to know and believe the love he has for us. (1 John 4:7-21) This is where our love begins. The same passage of scriptures in 1 John says that perfect love casts out all fear. Love isn't made perfect where fear is because fear never allows us to trust or give ourselves completely. However, when we just believe Jesus, we are given the freedom of love. There is no more need to fear condemnation or being insufficient before the Lord. There is no more need to fear getting hurt or being betrayed by men. Our

faith in Jesus works by love and it is because we are granted the freedom and capability to love that we can willingly lay our lives down for one another. This is a topic that I would like to speak more about in Chapter Four. Love is the fruit of believing in Jesus and love exceeds all else.

In this chapter, I have attempted to show the greatness of the salvation that is given to us through faith in Jesus Christ. This salvation is available immediately for all who believe in him. Access to Jesus is free. Don't worry about where you are, what you did, or even about what you are doing right now. The Father of Jesus knows that you have no power. Thus, he sent Jesus into the world so that you might live by him. (John 6:57) Jesus is the only name you have to know or call upon. There is none else, and he is God. He is the true God and he is eternal life. (1 John 5:20) He is faithful and he will do exactly what he says, down to the very last letter. (Luke 21:33) He offers his salvation for free, here and now. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life." It doesn't matter what you did. You don't have to repay anything, confess anything before men, or make any promises to the Lord. There are no conditions, pre or post. He takes all responsibility upon himself for your past, present, and future. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life." I believe in him for my everything. He has been very faithful to me and he has done for me all of the things that I am writing about. If you are tired and burdened and need a Savior, believe in him right now, wherever you are. He is faithful to save you and give you an abundant life. (John 10:10)

If you already believe in Jesus, but are not partaking in the fullness of your inheritance in Jesus, then it is for you that I am especially writing. I plead with you to just receive the things I am writing about. There is no evil here, but there is much rest, goodness, and love. "Come unto [Jesus], all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and [he] will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). It is my greatest desire that "we all come in the unity of the faith, and of

the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13). Test the things that I am writing about and judge for yourself whether they be good or evil. Be courageous and believe. There is no need to continue on in cowardessness, praying and waiting, praying and waiting. Don’t be a passive waiter, but rather, believe the Lord, for the Lord himself has clearly spoken unto you to “Believe!” “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.” Amen!