

# “The Essentials Of Our Faith”

## Session XV

January 23, 2011

### “IDENTIFICATION” TRUTH: The Biblical Base → The “Cross”

In John 8:32 the Lord Jesus Christ makes a comprehensive and far-reaching promise,

*“And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”*

This promise certainly includes the **truth** of His Substitutionary Atonement → His full payment of the “\_\_\_\_\_” of our sin. Romans 8:1 states,

*“Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”*

II Corinthians 5:21 adds,

*“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf,  
so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”*

We might call this **work** of Jesus Christ the “\_\_\_\_\_” truths – the truth of the Word of God which relates to our salvation or “\_\_\_\_\_”, Romans 5:1.

*“Therefore, having been justified (declared righteous) by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

What a wonderful promise! By simple “faith” in Jesus Christ mankind receives the free “gift” of God – Eternal Life! Our sin and separation from God are **gone . . . forever!**

*“And I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish,  
and no one will snatch them out of My hand.” (John 10:28)*

But is this **all** that Jesus was promising? The following statements reveal another aspect of His **work**:

*“So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.” (John 8:36)*

*“ . . . I came that they may have life, and have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10)*

*“Knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin.” (Rom. 6:6)*

We might call this second aspect of the **work** of Christ the “\_\_\_\_\_” truths – the truth of the Word of God which relates to our release from the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin – our “\_\_\_\_\_”, Romans 6:14, *“For sin shall not be master over you.”*

## I. An Introduction to the “Growth” Truths (“Identification”).

### A. The “Identification Truths” do not come \_\_\_\_\_!

“ . . . God does not hurry in His development of our Christian life. He is working from and for eternity. So many feel they are not making progress unless they are swiftly and constantly forging ahead. Now it is true that the new convert often begins and continues for some time at a fast rate. But this will not continue if there is to be healthy growth and ultimate maturity. God Himself will modify the pace.”

--Miles Stanford

“ . . . it is God’s way to set people aside after their first start, that self-confidence may die down. Thus Moses was forty years. On his first start he had to run away. Paul was three years also, after his first testimony. Not that God did not approve the first earnest testimony. We must get to know ourselves and that we have no strength.”

--John N. Darby

“A student asked the President of his school whether he could not take a shorter course than the one prescribed. ‘Oh yes,’ replied the President, ‘but then it depends upon what you want to be. When God wants to make an oak, He takes an hundred years, but when He wants to make a squash, He takes six months.’ ”

--A.H. Strong

“Let’s settle it once and for all – there are no shortcuts to reality! . . . Unless the time factor is acknowledged from the heart, there is always the danger of turning to the false enticements of a shortcut via the means of ‘experiences’, and ‘blessings’, where one becomes pathetically enmeshed in the vortex of ever-changing ‘feelings’, adrift from the moorings of scriptural facts.”

--M. Stanford

### B. The “Identification Truths” do not come \_\_\_\_\_!

“In that the Husbandman’s method for true spiritual growth involves pain as well as joy, suffering as well as happiness, failure as well as success, inactivity as well as service, death as well as life, the temptation to shortcut is especially strong unless we see the value of and submit to the necessity of the time element; in simple trust resting in His hands.”

--Miles Stanford

“Spiritual renewal is a gradual process. All growth is progressive, and the finer the organism, the longer the process. It is from measure to measure . . . It is from stage to stage . . . And it is from day to day. How varied these are! There are great days, days of decisive battles, days of crisis in spiritual history, days of triumph in Christian service, days of the right hand of God upon us. But there are also idle days, days apparently useless, when even prayer and holy service seem a burden. Are we, in any sense, renewed in these days? Yes, for any experience which makes us more aware of our need of God must contribute to spiritual progress . . .”

--Graham Scroggie

*“So often in the battle we go to the Lord, and pray, and plead, and appeal for victory, for ascendancy, for mastery over the forces of evil and death, and our thought is that in some way the Lord is going to come in with a mighty exercise of power and put us into a place of victory and spiritual ascendancy as in an act. We must have this mentality corrected. What the Lord does is to enlarge us to possess. He puts us through some exercise, through some experience, takes us by some way that means our spiritual expansion . . . ‘I will not drive them out from before thee in one year; lest the land become desolate, and the beast of the field multiply against thee. By little and little I will drive them out before thee, until thou be increased.’ ”*

*--T. Austin-Sparks*

**C. The “Identification Truths” do not come \_\_\_\_\_ !**

*“Faith is dependence upon God. And this God-dependence only begins when self-dependence ends. And self-dependence only comes to its end, with some of us, when sorrow, suffering, affliction, broken plans, and hopes bring us to that place of self-helplessness and defeat. And only then do we find that we have learned the **lesson of faith**; to find our tiny craft of life rushing onward to a blessed victory of life and power and service undreamt of in the days of our **fleshly strength** and **self-reliance**.”*

*--James McConkey*

*“The Holy Spirit had Paul write to each of us, ‘Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith’ (II Cor. 13:5) . . . First of all, we must remind ourselves that ‘without faith it is impossible to please Him’ (Heb. 11:6). Moreover, and this is all-important, **true faith must be based solely on scriptural facts**, for ‘faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God’ (Rom. 10:17). Unless our faith is established on **facts**, it is no more than conjecture, superstition, speculation, or presumption. . . . Faith standing on the **facts** of the Word of God substantiates and gives evidence of things not seen. . . . All of us started on this principle when we were born again – our belief stood directly on the eternal **fact** of the redeeming death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (I Cor. 15: 1-4). This is the faith by which we began, and it is the same faith by which we are to “stand” (I Cor. 16:13), and “walk” (II Cor. 5:7), and “live” (Gal. 2:20). . . . Since true faith is anchored on scriptural facts, we are certainly not to be influenced by **impressions**. George Mueller said, ‘*Impressions have neither one thing nor the other to do with faith. Faith has to do with the Word of God. It is not impressions, strong or weak, which will make the difference. We have to do with the Written Word of God and not ourselves or our impressions.*’ Then, too **probabilities** are the big temptation when it comes to exercising faith. . . . But Mueller wrote: ‘Many people are willing to believe regarding those things that seem probable to them. Faith has nothing to do with probabilities. The providence of faith begins where probabilities cease and sight and sense fail.’ ”*

*--Miles Stanford*

## II. The Biblical Statement of the “Growth” Truths:

Paul’s epistle to the Romans is written in the form of a legal treatise – “a systematic exposition or argument in writing which includes a methodical discussion of the facts, of the principles involved, and of the conclusions reached.” His “argument” follows the “methodical discussion” of these major facts:

--Chapters 1-3:20 → **The Fact:** “Righteousness” is Needed by all Mankind because “All” are under the **Condemnation** of Holy God because of Sin.

*“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” Rom. 3:23.*

--Chapters 3:21-5:21 → **The Fact:** Righteousness is “Imputed” to all who “Believe” in the work of Jesus Christ on the Cross → **Justification** (to “declare righteous”; sin’s “penalty” removed).

*“Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,” Rom. 5:1.*

--Chapters 6:1-8:39 → **The Fact:** Righteousness is “Imparted” (“experienced”) by all who “Believe” in the work of Jesus Christ on the Cross → **Sanctification** (freedom from the “power” of indwelling sin).

*“Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slave to sin,” Rom. 6:6.*

### **Facts from Romans Chapter Six:**

**A. Fact:** The Believer has been “**Baptized**” into \_\_\_\_\_, Rom. 6:3.

→ Key: “Baptized” = “to immerse”; “to place into”.

(See: I Cor. 12:13 → “Spirit” baptism “into” Christ)

**B. Fact:** The Believer has been “**Baptized**” into Christ’s \_\_\_\_\_, Rom. 6:3.

→ Key: “Baptized” = “to immerse”; “to place into”.

We participated in what happened to Him!

→ Key: He “\_\_\_\_\_” to sin; we “\_\_\_\_\_” to sin!

*“ . . . we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death,” Rom. 6:5.*

*“Knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him,” Rom. 6:6.*

**C. Fact:** The Believer has been “**United**” with Christ’s \_\_\_\_\_, Rom. 6:5.

→ Key: “United” = “to be made **one** with”.

→ Key: What happened to Him, happened to the Believer!

*“ . . . in order that our body of sin might be done away with (rendered **inoperative, powerless**)”, Rom. 6:6.*

## **Helpful Quotations: The “Facts” of Romans Chapter Six.**

*“Believers in Christ were joined to Him at the Cross, united to Him in **death** and **resurrection**. **We died with Christ**. He died **for** us, and we died **with** Him. This is a great **fact**, **true of all Believers**.* --L.E. Maxwell

*“The Believer has been **united** with Christ in His **death**. In this **union** with Christ, the flesh, the body of sin – the entire fallen, sin-ruined being with its intelligence, will, and desires – is **judged** and **crucified**. By faith, the Believer **reckons** (counts) himself ‘dead unto sin’ (Rom. 6:3-14).”* --Alexander R. Hay

*“The old “**I**” in you and me was judicially **crucified** with Christ. ‘Ye died’ and your death dates from the death of Christ. The ‘old man’, the old ‘self’, in God’s reckoning was taken to the Cross with Christ and crucified and taken into the tomb with Christ and buried. Assurance of deliverance from the sphere of the ‘flesh’ and of the de-thronement of ‘the old man’ rests upon the **apprehension** and **acceptance** of this **FACT** of co-crucifixion.”* --Ruth Paxson

*“Our **sins** were dealt with by the blood; we **ourselves** are dealt with by the Cross. The blood procures our **pardon**; the Cross procures **deliverance** from what we are in Adam. The blood can wash away my **sins**, but it cannot wash away my **old man**: I need **the Cross to crucify me** – the sinner.”* --Watchman Nee

*“**Who** died on the Cross? Of course, our blessed Lord died on the Cross; but who else died there?”* --William Culbertson

*“If the difference between ‘Christ dying **for** us’ and ‘our dying **with** Him’, has **not been recognized, acknowledged, and applied**, it may be safely affirmed that **THE SELF** is still the dominating factor in the life.”* --Jesse Penn-Lewis

*“God says in effect, ‘My child, as you **reckoned** on the substitutionary work of the Lord Jesus Christ for your salvation, now go a step farther and **reckon** on His representative work for your victory day by day. **You believe the Lord Jesus died for your sins because God said so. Now take the next step. Accept by faith the further FACT that you died with Him.**”* --Reginald Wallis

*“As we learn to stand on the ‘finished work’ of Calvary, the **Holy Spirit** will begin to faithfully and effectively **apply** that ‘finished work’ of the Cross to the self-life, thereby holding it in the place of death – inactive – resulting in the ‘**Not I, but Christ**’ life.”* --Miles Stanford