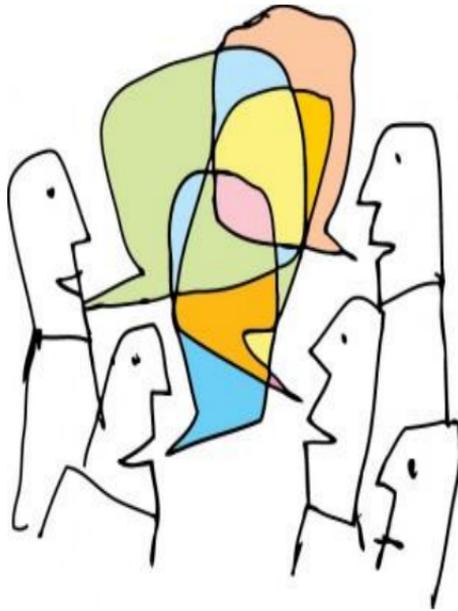


# kNOw Expectations



Once you know the expectations of Christ,  
No other expectations can burden you again.

Dan Cummins

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*kNOw Expectations*

Dan Cummins

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## kNOw Expectations

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JoAnn and I have a beautiful family that keeps growing every day. Our children, their spouses and grand children are our inspirations and joys of life. Thank God for them.

To Bridlewood Church, I am proud of you and blessed to be your pastor. Thanks for believing in me.

My soul, wait thou only upon God;  
for my expectation is from him.  
Psalm 62:5

## Introduction

A Pharisee, who was also a lawyer, asked Jesus, “Master, what is the greatest commandment and what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Isn’t that the \$64,000 question that everyone wants to know the answer to?

“Jesus what do you expect from me so that I can just *do it* and know that I’m going to Heaven?”

“Just tell me, God, what are your expectations of me?”

Now the Pharisees were a sect of priests who were quick to demand from Israel certain *expectations* as to what they thought God’s standards were for holiness. They were constantly writing additional laws in addition to God’s laws and adamantly insistent that Israel keep their laws, *their expectations of God’s standards*, with the same reverence as they showed for God’s laws. They were equating their expectations to those of God’s.

Jesus rebuked them for this practice saying, “Woe unto you also, you lawyers, for you laden men with burdens grievous to bear, and you yourselves touch not the burdens with one of your fingers,” Luke 11:46.

The Pharisees were hypocritical because they could not keep the laws they were demanding of the people – that is why they were not “*Fair-you-see!*”

Pharisees were big into *doing* – tithing in public, giving alms to the poor on the street corners, praying aloud in the temple square, putting on old clothes and wearing a long face whenever they were fasting and publicly accusing people, usually women, of their sins.

So it is no wonder that this lawyer/preacher wanted to know what it was that he must *do*. After all, he had done all these things from his youth. Maybe all the doing had left him spiritually empty. He wanted to know if he had missed something. Maybe he had overlooked the most important law and needed more work on it. Do you ever leave church feeling that way?

The Pharisee certainly must have been surprised at Jesus' reply, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with your entire mind. This is the first and greatest commandment."

I'm sure he must have thought to himself, "Where is the doing? You've left out the doing." Jesus was coming from an entirely different place of thinking than the Pharisee. The Pharisee was use to legalism and living up to a list of expectations. His spiritual acceptance was based upon his physical performance. Jesus was coming from a place of relationship and grace – no expectations just love. This was radical!

If part one of Jesus' answer did not confuse him, part two left him scratching his head, "And the second is like unto it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." I bet the Pharisee did not know where to begin "to do" what Jesus had just said.

No wonder Jesus brought down the ire of the Sanhedrin upon his message. The language

Jesus spoke was radically foreign to the religious rhetoric of the day. No one had ever talked like that in church before. Jesus introduced a brand new concept of what God really expects from man to get into the kingdom of God.

It was not about doing, it was about relationship. It was not about the Law rather grace. It was not about a list of things to do to cleanse a guilty heart; rather it was about a heart that had been “born again” – cleansed by the blood and changed by love.

I wonder if the Pharisee left disappointed that day after hearing Jesus’ answer. Were his expectations of who the Messiah was supposed to be answered or did he think there had to be more to it than that? “It was just too simple.”

Did he return to the Temple, back to his busyness, back to his sacred doings? Or did he leave like another Pharisee, Nicodemus, who saw the light of grace and was “born again” and entered the kingdom of God.

Jerusalem was filled with many different expectations about the coming Messiah and what he would do. Would this young carpenter coming out of the wilderness preaching “repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” be the one to deliver Israel from the hands of Rome or would he be just another eccentric prophet?

There are still plenty of expectations today about Jesus and what we think he expects us “to do” to inherit eternal life. And like the Pharisees we all have added our “to do” lists on top of two very simple, but radical, expectations of Christ – *love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with your entire mind; and love your neighbor as yourself.*

In some cases we have allowed others to add their “to do” lists upon our shoulders and we cannot hold up to the weight.

Why do we always get away from the simplicity of the gospel of Christ? Where do all these ecclesiastical expectations come from and why are we always drawn to making these lists of things “to do” in order

to measure up. How do we get away from the complications of today's religious requirements and know the simple expectations of Christ?

Once you know the expectations of Christ no other expectations can burden you again. *Take my yoke upon you for my burden is light...*

Expectations: Webster defines them as *anything that is anticipated to happen*. There are certainly plenty of them to go around. The world runs on expectations. There won't be anything you do today that is not motivated by an expectation – either your own or someone else's for you.

Expectations are empowered by either fear or faith.

As I begin to write this book I have certain expectations for it. Will it reach the reader with the message as intended? Will it make #1 on the *New York Times* best sellers list? Will it be selected for Oprah's book of the month club? Will I even finish writing it, much less get it published?

Some of these are real or possible expectations, some might be a little far-fetched. My expectations of this work will determine the degree of satisfaction I receive from writing it. If I am writing simply because I feel (have faith) that God has asked me to do so, then I certainly will receive fulfilled satisfaction, or happiness, upon its completion. Any other accomplishments will simply be a delightful bonus. But if I'm expecting a Pulitzer Prize in order to prove my point then I'm headed for *Disappointmentville*.

Expectations motivate everything we do. They can be healthy or destructive to our lives. Even good expectations, though well intended, that are superimposed upon us by others can be extremely destructive for our life. It is important that we understand where these expectations originate that motivate our every life's action. Their origin usually determines what's empowering them – fear or faith.

God equips each of us for a unique destiny or purpose to fulfill *His* expectations of us. If God has expectations of us He certainly

desires to see them through – for our joy as well as His own. The Creator takes pleasure in His creation... *and for his pleasure they were created.*

A great overlooked aspect of God is that his expectations (hopes) for us are driven by His faith *in us*. Behind this inexhaustible faith is His unfathomable love. *And the greatest of these is love.*

Expectations that are not from God can be, and often are, reached in life. Unfortunately their rewards are shallow and unfulfilling. A developer of an exclusive subdivision told me that many couples will file for a divorce about a year after moving into his neighborhood.

Their expectations for marriage had been if they could only reach a certain level of material accumulation they would be happy. Once they reached the top of the material mountain of their expectations and saw that there was nothing on the other side, the marriage, and family, ended in tragedy. The relationship was over because it wasn't built upon right expectations.

You cannot be true to yourself while trying to live up to someone else's expectations of you. This applies to marriage, business or anything for that matter. Any expectation for your life that is not from God is an *unreal* expectation and will result in discontentment.

Living a life built upon someone else's expectations other than God's is a life built upon lies. It is a life built in fear. Fulfilling God's expectations of you is discovering *life more abundantly*. It is a life built in faith. It is seeing the things that are not as though they were. *Without faith it is impossible to please God.*

Unreal expectations most always become *unfulfilled expectations* which result in failure, guilt and condemnation. This all too familiar pattern begins the oldest game on earth – The Blame Game. Whenever we do not reach our goals or expectations we must justify our failures in order to relieve the resulting guilt. So we make excuses – we blame.

Blame balances the scales of our emotions until we feel good about ourselves again. So we tear down others to build ourselves up. Someone who is always critical or constantly gossips about others is caught in The Blame Game of fear.

These individuals are most unhappy about themselves. Failure, guilt and condemnation are their constant companions and feelings so gossip and criticism are their most frequented expressions.

The Blame Game is an insane game because you can *never* measure up! It is impossible to win. You always live in fear about what others are thinking about you. “Am I measuring up?”

Jesus came that we might live a life free from failure, guilt and condemnation. He came that we might live free from fear. *God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of love, power and a sound mind.*

God expects us to live free of gossip, criticism and judgment because of our own failures or the failure of others to live up to

our expectations of them. This freedom can only be found in fulfilling His expectations of us. Only *by faith* can we know that we have *already* measured up to His expectations of us *in Christ*. This is the secret of grace. This is the key to abundant living.

Jesus came that we might live free of condemnation. He came that we might experience abundant life. He came that we may love others with the same love with which He has loved us – *a love without expectations*.

You can fulfill God's expectations of you and discover His purpose for your life. Discovering God's expectations for our lives brings incredible freedom from guilt and condemnation and the ability to love others as God loves us. This is where happiness and joy is found.

God has just two expectations of us: to love Him with all our heart, soul and mind, and to love our neighbor as our self. That's it! No other list of things to accomplish by the time one reaches thirty - just two amazingly

simple requirements. So why do we let life get so complicated?

In this book, we will explore the biblical origins of expectations. Where do they originate? Understanding the biblical basis and origin of expectations brings us unbelievable insights into the love and grace of God's expectations of us and how He can have faith in us.

What were God's original expectations of Adam? When did Satan project his own unfulfilled expectations upon Adam? Why did Adam believe a lie and begin to live his life based upon someone else's expectations of him?

Adam's relationship with God was destroyed when he began to live his life based on Lucifer's unfulfilled projected expectations – "I will be like God." Lucifer projected this perversion to Adam – "Eat from this tree and you'll be like God." I don't have to tell you the outcome. That's what this book's about.

Unfulfilled expectations are the greatest destroyer of relationships, the biggest cause of divorce and the number one reason why people are losing their sanity and peace of mind.

Unfortunately, they are the reasons people will miss Heaven and spend an eternity in Hell. They are trying to get there by the unreal, un-fulfilled, projected expectations of religion.

Experience the freedom in discovering love without expectations. Know the joy that comes from a relationship that is based on love and not expectations. Stop playing The Blame Game. Start experiencing your destiny in Christ – His expectations of you. Start experiencing the abundant life that is found only in the fulfilled expectations of Christ.

The Author, June 28, 2010

## kNOw Expectations

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## Chapter One – Expectations

The alarm clock and the coffee maker are set for six, but it is five thirty and you have been lying in bed for the past thirty minutes starring at those red neon numbers slowly changing until you *have* to get up.

It's Monday morning – *again!* You are already running over in your mind the day's activities checking them off one-by-one before your feet have to hit the floor. When they do it will be a *pedal-to-the-metal, Katie-bar-the-door, look-out-world-here-I-come* Monday – a Monday that begins at six and will be over at five on Friday.

Sound familiar? Wouldn't it be nice to slow the train down? You say you can't. Why not? Is it because someone else is driving your train?

“Not just someone, there's a committee of engineers and a stack of bills running my train. I feel like the little red caboose bringing up the rear – the last one to know

and the first one blamed. And the scenery, it *never* changes!”

How does life end up so complicate, so driven to the point it seems out of control? The problem isn't that it's out of control; it's just out of *your* control. You have, most likely, allowed other people's expectations, though well intended, begin to control your life.

Expectations are the biggest, if not primary, source of stress, failure, disappointment and condemnation in the world. How many of you have ever had these words spoken to you?

- *"I expected more from you",*
- *"You are the last person on earth I'd ever expected that from"*
- *"You really let me down"*
- *"This is not at all like you "*
- *"I'm ashamed of you"*
- *"I thought you loved me"*

- *“Why can’t you be more like your sister?”*
- *“You’ll become a doctor when you grow up.”*
- *“Mommy, I need you to buy me this...”*
- *“Why can’t you be like Johnny’s parents”*
- *“Come on, you can do better than that!”*
- *“I don’t expect more out of you than I expect out of myself.”*

Or, have you ever spoken these words to someone. If so, do you realize the condemnation or judgment you may be putting upon them? It is phrases like these that reveal people’s expectations of us.

Expectations in relationships usually begin when we take our own ideals, standards, and views of life, and project them onto other people. Then we anticipate and even expect that they will live up to our ideals for them.

Or we might have unknowingly been the recipient of other's expectations for us. In either case, these projections are *unreal expectations* because they most likely are not God's expectations of us.

UNREAL expectations are the biggest KILLERS OF RELATIONSHIPS because they will always become UNFULFILLED expectations. Their standards are usually impossible for others or the one projecting them to fulfill. That is why we project them onto others. We pass the ball off.

Unfulfilled expectations create guilt. So we get rid of them – project them onto others. We give others our garbage and expect them to make it smell like roses in turn making us happy about ourselves. We are trying to find satisfaction and fulfillment through someone else's accomplishments of our unfulfilled expectations.

I believe our lives get this way because we truly don't know what's expected of us. Whenever we don't know what's expected of us, we all too often allow others to impose their expectations *of* and *for* us to

begin to control our lives. We take on their expectations, usually their *unfulfilled* expectations. These replace *God's* expectations for us.

How and when does all this begin? When did you pick up so many *expecting* passengers that your life no longer seems your own? Is there any way to stop this train of expectations? Yes, there is.

I believe it begins in our childhood.

The Bible says for parents to train up a child in the way that *they* should go and when they are grown up, able to drive their own train, they will not depart from it. God gifts a child with abilities and talents from birth to equip them in accomplishing His expectations for their life. The parent is to *discern* the child's direction in life not *decide* it.

A child that is properly raised with an understanding of what God's expectations are of them will not allow others to usurp, take control, of their life's purpose. That child will find fulfillment and happiness in

life because they will, most likely, fulfill what their Creator has planned for their life – *life more abundantly*.

I coached my son in baseball from t-ball to senior midgets. I saw countless times the effects that parent's projected unfulfilled expectations create for their children when they try to relive and accomplish in their children's play what they failed to do.

Let's face it; their kid shouldn't be playing baseball. They haven't hit or caught a ball all season long – for four years in a row. They don't want to be there, but mom or dad insists. The kid isn't motivated, doesn't play well and leaves every game feeling like a failure because they can't please their parents.

Even worse, they are embarrassed in front of their peers for letting the team down with a poor performance. They spend most of their waking hours at school with those peers who tease and make fun of them because they are "losers." The kid hates baseball and resents his parents for putting them in a situation of impossible success.

The kid has less than an enthusiastic attitude toward me, the coach, because they see me as their parents' enforcer. This attitude will be carried over, projected, onto their boss later on in life when they are working at a job where they don't want to be employed.

Face it mom and dad, your kid isn't an athlete. This type of experience early in life will destroy any self confidence needed for their future success when they finally discover their God-given expectations.

For example: let's say there's a young man, Bill, who is born with God-given artistic talents. He loves to paint and draw and feels that he wants to study art and become a painter.

His parents feel that he won't be able to make a good living as an artist and they *convince* him to become a doctor. In fact, they will only pay for his college tuition *if* it is for pre-med.

Their intentions for their son are well meaning, but put him on a path of discontentment for his life. *There is a way*

*that seems right to a man, but the end thereof is the ways of death.* So, the young artist goes to college to become a doctor.

Then there is a young woman, Sue, whose mother never had the material things in life that she desired. She tells her daughter from the time that she is young that if she wants to be happy in life she should grow up and marry a doctor. So Sue goes to college to get her “MRS” degree in medicine.

It just so happens that Bill and Sue go to the same university and meet. They are physically attracted to one another and Sue believes that she has found her *pre-med in shining armor*.

Soon after graduation they marry and Bill begins med school and the long tough road in becoming a doctor.

Do you see the unreal expectations underlying the foundation of their relationship? Do you see how complicated emotionally it will become for them as all these unreal, projected, unfulfilled

expectations that others have imposed upon them cannot be realized as life goes on?

It is almost impossible for them to have a fulfilled life starting out with so many unreal expectations. Maybe you are beginning to see similar patterns in your own life?

This is only one example of living by other's expectations. There are countless ways in life that we are wrongfully influenced into doing things or buying things by other's expectations of us.

We begin every day filled with expectations. They motivate most everything we do. We go to work motivated by the expectation of a paycheck to pay for all the material things we have purchased on credit to bring happiness to our lives. Material things that are simply trophies of our "successful life" that Madison Avenue says we must have in order to be happy. We must dress a certain way, drive a certain car, wear a certain perfume and go to the right places.

But it seems the cost of having all these *material* things is more than we are capable

of emotionally spending. Buyer's remorse is usually the outcome because we are never satisfied once we have these things. We think then if we only had *more* it would satisfy and bring happiness.

This viscous lifestyle created by unreal expectations from material things in our lives is epitomized by a bumper sticker I read: "He who dies with the most toys wins!"

There are certainly no shortages of expectations. The world is full of expectations. World economies thrive or fail on expectations. Wall Street dips and soars based upon some "expert's" expectations of the economy.

We invest our future in expectations. If those expectations are based on reliable facts we succeed. If they are based upon faulty information or conjecture we may fail.

Hollywood is a big producer of expectations – most of them fantasies, make-believe. They use a *projector* to implant these unreal expectations into our minds. Seldom is real

life like it is in the movies. If we are basing our life, love or marriage upon what we see in the movies, then our expectations are destined for disappointment. Yet, Hollywood is the number one “expectations projector” in the lives of our children. Children try to imitate what they see.

Religion also creates and projects unreal expectations upon our lives. Religion says “You better do this if you want to go to heaven.” Religion tells us that “*you* can do it, try harder.” That is because religion puts it’s faith in self-works! Self-works are dead works which are unreal expectations that only bring failure, guilt and more condemnation. When this occurs what solution does religion offer – “Pray more, give more, fast more... you need to do more!”

I believe the reason there has been a *mass* exodus (pun intended) from the church is because this generation has seen the failure of religion to bring any real evidence of God’s love in the lives of their parents.

The family went to church and was told they should live one way, but in the home it was impossible for anyone to measure up. So, the parents were seen as hypocrites. The kids saw that religion didn't work, isn't real. They were right!

Real expectations can be rewarding. They are healthy. We need them in our lives. Unreal expectations can be disappointing. Expecting something that cannot be delivered is disastrous.

It is imperative that one discovers God's purposes and expectations for their lives if they are ever to reach happiness and contentment in life. Even if you have already discovered that your life has been influenced by other's expectations of you it is not too late to find happiness and the fulfillment that only comes from experiencing God's expectations for you.

The Apostle Paul states, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service [*act of worship*]."

2 And do not be conformed to this world [*don't live by someone else's expectations of you, don't be forced into their mold*], but be transformed [*set free*] by the renewing of your mind [*discovering God's purpose for your life*], that you may prove [*experience for yourself*] what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God [*His expectations and purposes for you - abundant life*],” Romans 12:1-2, NKJV [*author's comments*].

When did Bill and Sue's trains get on the wrong tracks of expectations? It began when they were children. Their well-meaning parents started them out in life down a path that could never bring fulfillment and happiness. Their parent's projected, unfulfilled expectations, though well-meaning, were not based upon Biblical principles and could not bring their children happiness.

It is the parent's responsibility to discern God's intentions for each child, to know the calling of God for their life and then train that child, equip them, for the life that God

has planned for them. This is God's idea of *Planned Parenthood!*

“But what if my parents didn't know that? What if they weren't Christians? How could they have trained me?” Herein lies the problem. *It's our parents fault.*

“I knew it, I knew it! I was right all the time.”

It *was* your parent's fault because their parents didn't know and their parents didn't know either. In fact, we can trace this delinquency in parenting all the way back to our first parents – Adam and Eve.

## Chapter Two – The Origin of Expectations

Adam and Eve were bad parents. So consequently every set of parents since have suffered the same fate – trying to raise their kids by either unreal expectations, unfulfilled expectations and/or projected expectations.

Their first child Cain murdered his younger sibling Abel because of unreal expectations of what God wanted from him in the form of an offering for the forgiveness of sins. Abel understood God's expectation of salvation – there must be an innocent sacrifice slain to pay for one's sins. This is salvation *by grace through faith*.

Cain, on the other hand, followed Lucifer's projected line of thinking – you must do something with your hands, eat from the tree, grow a crop, “do something” to find forgiveness with God. His was one of salvation *by works through fear*.

Why didn't Adam and Eve teach *both* their children the lesson about sin, disobedience

and what God requires for forgiveness?  
Why was Abel the only child to understand?  
After all, what did God do to cover their  
original sin? God offered an innocent  
sacrifice as a substitute to cover their  
nakedness, shame and disappointment.

Abel's offering represented God's  
expectations of salvation, whereas, Cain's  
represented man's works based upon unreal  
expectations. Cain represents religion, Abel  
the plan of salvation. Even today Cain is  
still murdering Abel because of conflicting  
expectations. The greatest enemy to the  
Church is religion and its works that are  
based upon man's expectations that are  
unreal and incapable of being fulfilled.  
When it comes to the Law, the house always  
wins!

So in the very first family the parents taught  
their children that religious works are a  
substitute for a relationship with God. They  
should have been teaching their children that  
sin (religious works – eating from the wrong  
tree of expectations) destroys relationships.  
Sin kills.

The world is right when they point their finger and say that religion is the biggest cause of wars in history. It is. It started with Cain and Abel and the first dysfunctional family.

So delinquent parenting is the generational curse that Adam and Eve has past down to us all.

What made Adam and Eve bad parents were their own unreal and unfulfilled expectations for *their* lives. We will explore this later at length. Once you see how it happened you can discover the wonderful freedom that is yours in Christ.

So how do you escape *the sins of your parents*? How do you stop the generational curse of living by assumed expectations? How do you get on the right train?

We must go back to the beginning. It all started in the beginning – in the Garden of Eden. When I say “all,” I mean *everything*. It is in the garden where we discover God’s purpose for Adam and Eve, His expectations of them and how they blew it.

It is in the garden where Satan perpetrated upon man *his* unfulfilled expectations and usurped God's purpose for man. So it is in the garden that we must rediscover our freedom – the expectations of God for man and how to repossess them.

When we discover these two simple truths – God's expectations for Adam and Eve and how they were sidetracked by Satan's projected, unfulfilled expectations – we can truly begin our liberation from those ungodly expectations that have generationally been placed upon us, discover how free life in Christ really is and how easily the rest of God can be experienced.

"Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens [*expectations*], and I will give you rest. Take my yoke [*expectations and purpose*] upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light," Matthew 11:28-30 NLT [Author's emphasis].

There are some theological points that we must consider at this time. It is not my intention to prove any of them with lengthy discourse. Forty years of intense study of God's Word has convinced me to accept them as axioms for our premise concerning the treatment of *expectations*. The hope that you will experience all the spiritual freedom that is yours in Christ will be my proof.

However, if you are to be permanently set free from other's expectations for your life and find the fulfillment that only Christ can give, you must be able to stand *alone* upon the solid rock of God's word. You must build your house securely upon the solid rock of truth to withstand the wind, rain and flood that Satan will bring your way.

It is unfortunate that Biblical systematic theology is not being taught these days from our pulpits. It may be the main cause for the "great falling away" promised in the end times when men shall not endure sound doctrine. There are too many "warm fuzzy feeling" sermons when we need a solid rock on which to stand. There are too many "sermonettes" which have produced

“Christianettes” who haven’t won the world yet!

I believe the concepts presented in this book are based upon rock-solid biblical truths – truths that will liberate your life. They are based upon “And God said” as opposed to popular thought or modern expectations.

When Satan comes to challenge you, challenge your liberty in Him, comes and whispers, “Hath God Said,” you must be able to reply in boldness, “It is written...” Second hand information has never won a battle against Satan. Quoting a passage from this book won’t help either. Be prepared with the Word.

I promise to make the next three chapters as painless as possible. Please keep in mind you are learning the keys of your future freedom to fulfill all that God created you to become. It won’t be difficult I promise.

Consider this first: Lucifer’s rebellion in heaven precedes the advent of Adam. The seeds of pride, self-exaltation and unreal expectations drew one third of the angels in

Heaven to follow Lucifer in his eternal quest to be mightier than God.

Therefore, the origin of sin is satanic not Adamic. Satan's pride led to his unreal expectations of being above God. When his unreal expectations became unfulfilled expectations he, in discontent, led a rebellion in heaven against God.

Lucifer started The Blame Game. He must have brought accusations against God in one form or another to convince one third of the angels to follow him. He had to have slandered the character of God. He was the first blasphemer.

His unreal expectations became unfulfilled expectations. Lucifer lost his authority and place in God's kingdom. In his ever downward descent to the Lake of Fire, Satan would soon project these same unfulfilled aspirations upon Adam and Eve in the garden – *eat from this tree and you too can be like God.*

The Bible does not say how long this rebellion had been ongoing before the

creation of man, however, the order of events is crucial in understanding the expectations of God for Adam.

First, consider these points as a whole before we discuss them individually in detail.

Understanding what happened in the garden is the key to seeing the freedom you have in the completed works of Christ. All of God's expectations of you have been satisfied by Him. Here you will see grace as never before. Radical grace. And it is only a radical grace that can make you radically free.

Consider these points:

- Adam was created in the likeness and image of God.
- Adam was made in the physical “image” of the pre-incarnate Jesus.
  - When God was forming Adam out of the dust, He was looking at Jesus as the model.
  - When God looked at Jesus He saw the fulfillment of Adam.
  - When God was forming Adam, He saw the infilling of Jesus in Adam.

- When He looked at Jesus He saw the fulfillment of His expectations for Adam in Christ.
- Adam was created on the sixth day.
- Adam's first day was the God's seventh day – the Sabbath.
- The Sabbath was Adam's day to rest in the completed works of Jesus.
- God created everything by Jesus Christ and for His pleasure (desire or expectation) they were created.
- The works were complete from the foundation of the world.
- The works were all good and perfect.
- There was nothing Adam could do to improve on the completed works of Jesus.
- God simply wanted Adam to maintain the completed works.
- In order to do so God gave Adam dominion over the completed works of Jesus Christ.
- But Adam blew it!

Yes, in a big way, but it was not a surprise to God's expectations of Adam. Did God

know that Adam would sin? Absolutely. As a matter of fact, God knew that Adam would “blow it” before He formed Adam out of the dust of the earth. He knew before He created the universe.

You see, God’s eternal purpose, or expectation for man was never about the man Adam, it was however, always about the man Jesus Christ.

*It was never about Adam, it was always about Christ.*

Chapter Three –  
The Eternal Purpose of God

*It was never about Adam, it was always about Christ.*

This is my thesis. This is the key we are about to unravel. This is the simple expectation of God for man. When you see *it* you will find freedom for your life.

When you see *this*, you will no longer accept projected expectations for your life. When you see this you will possess discernment and wisdom to make the right moral choices for you and your family. *You shall know the truth and it shall set you free.*

What do I mean *it was never about Adam, it was always about Christ*? I mean that when God made Adam, He never had an expectation for Adam to *accomplish* anything. God's expectations were always in Christ to accomplish what Adam could not do, could never do. In other words, God would accomplish His purposes for Adam through Christ.

How do I know it was never about Adam's ability to fulfill God's expectations of him?

I first saw this while reading Ephesians 3:9-11, a favorite passage from which I've taught for over thirty years concerning the eternal purpose of God.

9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, **which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:**

10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known **by the church** the manifold wisdom of God,

11 *According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:*

Ephesians 3:9-11.

Verse eleven holds the key. God has an eternal purpose. There has never been a time in which this purpose has not been in the heart and mind of an eternal God. It is

Plan “A” and there has never been a Plan “B.” It is *His* purpose, it has always been, will always be – just like Him. It’s eternal!

This eternal purpose is to use *the Church* to show all the rebellious angels in heaven how wise He is. This eternal purpose is a mystery which God originally hid from man’s understanding. He hid it in Himself before He created the world by Jesus Christ.

But now in the Church Age, beginning on the day of Pentecost, this mystery is revealed to men. God is using the Church to fulfill His - until now hidden - eternal purpose. Pay particular attention to the fact that this eternal purpose has always been, will always be, purposed IN CHRIST, not Adam. And it will be the Church that God uses as His divine instrument to fulfill His eternal purpose, not Adam.

In fact, what I see here, or don’t see, is poor ole Adam’s name mentioned anywhere in these three verses.

So where is Adam? He is not to be found. Not mentioned once. The only two entities mentioned here are Christ and His Church.

The Church is the great mystery that God had been hiding since before the foundation of the world, not Adam. The Church is the great mystery that God had been hiding until the advent of the new man Jesus appeared to take away the sins (unreal, unfulfilled, projected expectations) of the first man Adam. *This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church,* Ephesians 5:32.

God's plan all along has been to fulfill His expectations for man through Jesus Christ and His church, not Adam.

The truth is: Adam has no place in God's Kingdom. There is only room for one man in the Kingdom of God and His name is Jesus. If you are *in Adam*, you are out of God's kingdom! If you are *in Christ*, then you are in - eternally, unconditionally, without expectations *in*.

I sometimes say it this way, “There is only one man going up in the rapture, his name is Jesus. If you ain’t in Him you ain’t going.”

So what’s up with creating Adam? What’s that all about? Why did God create Him? What’s the purpose? Before we answer that, let’s look at something else God hid *in Christ* before the foundation of the world. It may reveal, I believe, the *how* or *why* God made Adam knowing all the while he would fail.

It is found in the final book of the Bible in Revelation 13:8.

And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb *slain from the foundation of the world.*

This passage is referring to the antichrist who shall come to power during the Tribulation period (The final time of conflict between the seed of the serpent and the seed of the woman, Gen.3.) and require everyone on earth to receive his mark, 666, and

worship him. The only exceptions will be those saints whose names *are written* in the Book of Life of the Lamb.

But it is the last seven words, *slain from the foundation of the world*, that I believe reveal the heart of a loving God and a willing Son. It reveals a decision that was made among the Father, Son and Holy Spirit long before the universe filled space. It reveals more insights into God's eternal purpose and Adam's place in that plan.

We must ask ourselves when was Jesus Christ slain for the sin of Adam? According to this verse, He was crucified *from the foundation of the world*.

If hidden in the heart of God from the foundation of the world was the plan for man's salvation (by the slaying of His son - the Lamb of God), then God foreknew Adam's sinful choice. Not only did He foreknow the choice, He pre-planned the solution, the redemption of man. *For those He foreknew he did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His son, that He*

*might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

He also foreknew Lucifer's choice. Indeed He did. One of God's expectations for Adam in creation's plan was to use Adam in dealing with the problem of Lucifer's rebellion. Remember, sin's origin precedes Adam's creation. But how could God use Adam if Adam would sin and fall short of God's expectations?

At some point in the *planning* of this eternal purpose, when the sinful choices were known and the solution purposed, Jesus had to say, "I'll be the One to redeem them. I'll give my life as a ransom for man. I'll go to Calvary. I'll take away their sin so they can be one with us." It was at that moment, if eternity can be identified by moments, the Lamb was *slain from the foundation of the world* in the heart and mind of God.

And there, somewhere in eternity past, in the heart of a loving God, the Church was conceived, Christ's birth announced, the cross, the tomb, Easter morning and the day of Pentecost scheduled; the Holy Spirit's

time appointed for the infilling and empowering of redeemed Adam's race. The mystery of the Church, the bride of Christ, was tucked away in the heart of God until Christ would come born of a virgin and become the fulfillment of all of God's expectations for Adam.

I have worked construction most of my life and there are always things you must do *before* any work can get started. It's called prep. You must get certain things ready in order to begin the job. You can't start the job without the prep.

You have to secure the financing to purchase the property, materials and supplies, line out the sub-contractors and schedule their activities. If you can't find the necessary materials and sub-contractors *who are qualified* to do the work, you *can't* start the job.

Contracts have to be signed. Most importantly, you must have the blueprints signed off on and approved. You must have a permit issued by the local governing authority.

Before a star could be flung into space, before the sun could give forth its light, before anything could be created on Day One of *Project Creation* the *prep* had to be done. Nothing could be accomplished in the following six days *until* the prep was complete. There could not even be a “day off” without the prep being complete.

Most importantly the financing had to be secured. Once the financing was in place the work could begin. The financing would guarantee that the materials can be bought, the subcontractors hired and the plans fulfilled. Who could be found in Heaven to secure the financing so *Project Creation* could begin?

It was Jesus Christ - the man through whom the Father would create all things. Jesus Christ financed *Project Creation* with His own blood as the security, the guarantee.

To be fair here to *free will*, Christ *may* have co-signed the note, as Adam’s guarantor, knowing full well *ahead of time* of Adam’s default in the garden. (It is God’s unlimited foreknowledge that enables predestination-

Romans 8:29.) In either case, the deal was done and the Son secured it all!

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Colossians 1:16-18

With the financing in place the materials were ordered and purchased. A sub-contractor was found and awarded the job who was qualified to get the work done. The sub-contractor was *Jesus Christ and Sons*. Adam lost the bid because he was not qualified to perform the work!

Before a concrete truck showed up on the Garden's site everything was bought and paid for by *Heaven's Bank & Trust*. Before a shovel of dirt was moved, the success of the plans was secured by the blood of the Lamb deposited in an eternal account in Heaven.

Before the foundation of the world, *ahead of time*, Jesus Christ pledged His blood as the security of payment for the success of God's eternal purpose. On Calvary Jesus turned in an invoice marked "It is finished! Work is done!" On Easter morning He picked up the check and deposited it (His blood) in a safety deposit box (the Ark of the Covenant) in the bank of Heaven from which it was written. The *Funds* were good!

Then on nine o'clock Pentecost morning He distributed the "riches in glory by Christ Jesus" to His employees – the Church – to enable them to maintain the completed work.

Once again, Jesus did the work, collected the check, deposited the funds and distributed the riches. He has done all the

work and we receive all the benefits by resting *in faith* in what He has done!  
*Amazing Grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me...*

Jesus Christ completed the eternal plan of Creation and God's purpose for man not just on time, but *ahead of time*, before the foundation of the world!

We mostly think of the risen Christ *after* the cross... *after he had offered one sacrifice (his blood) for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God; from henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool*. But what about the pre-incarnate Lamb, before the world was made. His sacrifice, the same sacrifice, was there too. His blood, His atonement, was there eternally making way for God's love to be revealed to all mankind. This too was hid in the heart of God – the mystery of Christ and His Church.

The Cross, the Blood, have always been the center of God's plan. Post modern theologians will demean and belittle the blood and the need of a cross, but it's

eternally been and eternally will be the power and provision of God's eternal purpose for the Church. The blood of the New Man, Jesus Christ, is now on the mercy seat in heaven's Holy of Holies *eternally* making intercession for our sin – sins past, sins present and sins future. *There is power, power, wonder working power in the blood of the Lamb...*

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition [*expectations*] from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world [*slain from the foundation of the world*], but was manifest in these last times for you, 1 Peter 1:18-20 [*Author's emphasis*].

And they (the Saints) overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Revelation 12:11

## Chapter Four – Let Us Make Man

Now back to the Garden. God created Adam in His *likeness* and *image*. These two Hebrew words refer to spiritual and physical qualities. We can easily understand spiritual qualities when referring to God, but what about physical ones. How was Adam made with the physical qualities of God if God is a spirit?

Colossians (1:15) says that Jesus Christ is the visible *image* (same meaning as used in Genesis) of the invisible God. Jesus Christ was there in the beginning with the Father. He is the pre-incarnate Son in whose image God fashioned Adam's being.

So as God was fashioning Adam from the dust of the earth He was looking at Jesus. Jesus was the pattern for the first Adam. He is still the pattern for the New Man – you who are *in Christ*. *Therefore if any be in Christ he is a new creature old things have passed away behold all things are become new. For we are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works that God hath*

*before ordained that we should walk in them.*

Why then was Jesus the pattern? Why couldn't God have made man unique in his own right, just as He did the animals? Why the *image* and *likeness* of God? Why didn't He make man different like the angels, cherubims or seraphims?

The reason, *God would become a man*. That was the plan all along. The Creator would become His creation to redeem that which He had created. What a plan! In order for the mystery – the Church – to be revealed the pre-incarnate Christ would have to become a man, Emanuel – God with us. Adam therefore *had* to be created in the likeness and image of God.

If that was the plan all along – that God would become a man - we can see then how Lucifer perverted, turned around, God's plan. He said, "I will become God," the creation will become God. He further projected this unreal expectation (the perversion of God's plan) upon man – "eat of this tree and you'll become God too. For

that matter, we'll all become God." New Age isn't sounding so new, is it?

That's Satan's perversion – The Creature will become God – the spirit of antichrist. Some latter day religious cults hold to this Luciferian idea. The book of Revelation is the ultimate confrontation between God's Plan and Satan's Perversion, between the God who became the Man and the Fallen Angel who is desperately trying to become the god.

So God would become a man. Then man would have to be created with all the necessary components to house God. If man would become God's house or dwelling place, God would need to place everything in man necessary for Him to exist.

Man, you might say, would become God's "earth station." Just as NASA built a space station with all the necessary requirements for humans to live in a foreign environment while accomplishing their mission, God made Adam with the intentions of one day taking up residence *in* Him by the presence

of the Holy Spirit to fulfill His eternal mission in a *foreign* environment.

So when God was forming Adam in the garden out of the dust of the earth He was all the while looking at Jesus, not just for the arms and legs details, but for something far greater. He was building into Adam all that was needed for Jesus to one day come and fulfill God's eternal purpose in him. Wired into Adam's DNA was everything God would later use to complete the mission – the plan. Guess what? It's all still wired in waiting for the Holy Spirit to activate and take command of the controls.

God would look at Jesus and work on Adam for a while. Look at Jesus again and work some more on Adam. Jesus was the model, Adam was only the prototype. Adam was the seed that would die alone in the garden; Jesus would be the fruit to come out of Him *a hundred fold... the firstborn among many brethren* – the head of the Church. Then out of Christ would be created His bride – the Church – the instrument to fulfill God's eternal purpose.

When God looked at Adam lying in the dust of the garden, He saw the preparation for Jesus. When He looked up at Jesus standing in the light of the garden He saw the perfecting of Adam. God was preparing Adam for the infilling of Jesus so Jesus would become the fulfillment of Adam's purpose. When God looked at Adam He saw Jesus, when He looked at Jesus He saw Adam.

It is no different today my friend. When you trusted Jesus as your Savior you became a new creature, a new man, *in Christ*. The Bible states that your new life is hidden in Christ. You now stand in the light of God's word. Now when God looks at you He no longer sees you lying *in Adam*, lying in the dust of the earth. He sees you standing in heavenly places *in Christ Jesus*. He sees you complete *in Christ*! So when God sees you His expectations of you are satisfied through Christ.

So when He looks at you He sees Jesus. And Jesus has satisfied the heart of the Father. Christ has met all of the Father's expectations of you. Isn't that great news!

The work of Christ satisfying the Father's heart for His expectations of you is complete. There is nothing else Jesus, or anyone, can do to make God's satisfaction more complete. In fact, nothing else but the work of Jesus can satisfy the Father's expectations of you. There is nothing you can do, just like there was nothing Adam could do. *And you are complete in him (Christ), which is the head of all principality and power...*

Let's think about the work of Jesus satisfying God's expectations of you. Simply put, it is grace in the raw. It doesn't get any more barebones grace than this. Jesus did it all for the Father satisfaction on your behalf, something you could never do. *Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe, sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.*

The Apostle Paul is very clear in Romans that there is nothing we can do in our flesh to meet God's requirement for our sin. There is no work of our flesh, like religious things, that can justify us before God. Quite

the contrary, they only condemn us the more to hell.

God knew the plan before He created Adam and wanted to emphasize this point - that there was nothing Adam could do in helping Jesus with His works of Creation - so God first made everything in the universe and then lastly made Adam. God worked six days to create everything then created Adam the very last thing on Friday before Saturday, the Sabbath. The Sabbath was God's seventh day, but it was Adam's first.

Adam wasn't created on day one so he could assist God with all his clever ideas. No, God finished all the work, completed it in six days so that on the seventh day everyone could rest in the completed works of Jesus.

God made man to rest not work. God's expectation for man was rest not work. Adam's relationship to God was based upon rest, not works.

Everything Adam enjoyed in the garden was the result of the completed work of Jesus, not the work of Adam. He had nothing.

Everything was a gift from God – an expression of grace and love.

In creation Jesus worked, Adam rested. If God's eternal purpose was to be fulfilled in Adam, then Adam would have done all the work and Jesus rested. But Jesus did the work, all the work and completed it. And it was good. There wasn't anything Adam could do to improve on anything Jesus created – not a rock, tree, fish or cow.

And don't forget, Jesus completed all the work *ahead of time!*

## Chapter Five – Adam's Purpose

Thank God for the Blood. I hope you are beginning to gain insights about the origins of expectations and their influences upon your life. In this chapter we will see further how Adam had two choices – whether to eat from two trees – the Tree of Life or the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. They are the source of all expectations. They are the fountains of Faith and Fear. Adam had the choice to eat of either tree to sustain his life. Do you know which tree is empowering the expectations running your life? You have the same choice today as Adam did. Choose wisely!

Trees were Adam's source of food – that which sustains life physically, emotionally and spiritually. Without physical nourishment the spiritual part of man perishes. Yet the physical part of man can also perish without the right spiritual nourishment.

These two trees represent the two primary sources, or origins, of expectations. One

tree brings abundant life while the other brings failure, guilt, condemnation and blame. One tree is obedience to God. The other is rebellion and independence from God. One depends on God's strength the other self-sufficiency.

One tree brings us to a place of utter dependence on the unmerited favor and grace of God – “God if you don't come through here, I'm finished.” The other tree constantly revives us so we can pull ourselves up once again by our bootstraps and repeat in the mirror, “I'm OK, I'm OK, I'm OK...” Which tree most adequately describes your life?

You may need to take a moment and examine your situation and ask yourself why you do the things you do, especially if the latter tree most adequately describes your feelings and attitudes. What's empowering your expectations? What are their origins?

The Tree of Life represents God's expectations for our lives. We have already seen that they have been fulfilled through Christ. So this tree represents our

dependency upon the completed works of Jesus. HE is the source that empowers our motivations.

It is the tree of grace and faith. This must be the only tree from which we eat. We eat of this tree through our obedience to His word. It is our only source of knowing who we are and what God expects of us. It is the only tree from which we find our life's purpose. *Man shall not eat by bread alone but by every word the proceeds from God...*

God told Adam to eat of this tree freely and he would have eternal life. Eternal life is partaking of the life of God – experiencing and sharing his nature. It is only as we understand that God is satisfied – there are no expectations of us that are not already fulfilled - that we can experience the freedom and joy that comes from knowing His Love.

If we are constantly thinking that we do not measure up to God's expectations, we will live like Adam after he sinned, constantly hiding from Him whenever we hear His voice. We will think of God as sitting on

His throne with a giant flyswatter waiting for us to make a wrong move so He can smack us. What tree does that idea come from?

The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil is the one source from which God forbid Adam to eat. It sustains, or actually destroys, life on the basis of right and wrong, good and evil – not love. This requires judging or comparing between things, usually each other, based on our own standards (expectations) of what we think is right or wrong. *But they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise...*

This tree breeds divisiveness and segregation. Sin *always* separates. It separates us from everything that brings us joy and happiness in life. Most of all it separates us from God and His purpose for our lives. There may be brief moments of pleasure but they always give way to the long-lasting feelings of guilt, condemnation and failure.

Segregation creates oppression, jealousy and ultimately rebellion.

Where do you think all these appalling wars and quarrels come from? Do you think they just happen? Think again. They come about because you want your own way, and fight for it deep inside yourselves. 2 You lust for what you don't have and are willing to kill to get it. You want what isn't yours and will risk violence to get your hands on it.

James 4:1-2

Adam had a choice. May I take a paragraph to discuss the free will of man? To be brief: Adam's choice and God's eternal purpose do not conflict. On the contrary, it is man's free will that validates the plan, wisdom and love of God. *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren,* Romans 8:29.

God's foreknowledge supersedes the free will of man though never violates it. Every day you choose the source of expectations for your life. You are motivated by either what the world and your peers expect of you, which constantly places you under pressure and stress to perform up to their expectations, or your directives for life come from God's Word and what He says about you, how you are to live and experience true happiness.

Do you spend more time reading *GQ* or *Cosmopolitan* to conform your *image* and expectations of life than you do the Bible – the Creator's handbook for happiness? That should be your first clue. *The apple doesn't fall far from the tree...*

Experience has already taught you that *you can please some of the people all the time, but you can't please all the people any of the time*. Why do we constantly seek approval from those to whom we can never measure up? Madison Avenue doesn't want you to measure up because once you do you'll stop spending your money.

The world is constantly moving the standard of what is “cool.” Every year there are new models of cars, new styles of clothes and a new definition of what’s PC. One day you’re *in* and the next you’re old school. The world changes *the image* to enslave your expectations to keep getting your money.

Satan does the same thing in your life. If he can ever get you enslaved to living by others expectations of you, he will always change the standard of what’s expected of you. You’re caught in his emotional trap – a spiritual pit of quicksand – and the harder *you try* to get out the deeper in you get. Do you feel like crying out to someone to get you out?

You can choose today to begin to discover how God sees you and what God thinks about you. You will be surprised. It is not anything like you’ve heard from religion or any other *nuts* from *that other tree*. God has a purpose for your life. You can find the happiness that only comes from experiencing God’s purpose. It is a life with

purpose, but with no expectations. It's found at the Tree of Life.

What about Adam's purpose? Certainly God would not create something as important as man without a purpose. Yes, God had a purpose for man and although Satan would usurp it from Adam, Jesus would restore it to the Church. Jesus came to restore all that Adam lost, but He came to restore it to the Church not Adam.

From the first two chapters in Genesis we find Adam's purpose. First it was to have fellowship with God. God made Adam for the purpose of relationship. God is Love; therefore by necessity of His nature, God needed a free morale creature, man, to bestow His attributes upon and who in kind would freely return such love.

God is Love. That is the number one attribute on my list of things that describe the character of God. Yet, God is also a creator. That is the first thing He wants man to know about His vocation. *In the beginning God created...*

There is nothing more pleasing to the Father's heart than for His sons to maintain His creation. If God had a business it would be called - *Creations: by Father and Sons*. A Father takes pleasure in building a business then passing it along to his sons to maintain and expand.

This was Adam's purpose - to maintain the completed works of Jesus. He was to nurture and dress the garden, take care of it. He was also to guard (*keep* Gen.2:15) the garden. Guard the garden from whom? From a fallen archangel who is now a slithering snake name Satan who eats the dust of the earth and projects his unfulfilled selfish expectations on anyone who will listen.

For Adam to maintain the completed works of Jesus, he was given dominion and authority over all the works of his hands. Everything was subject to the command of Adam. Just maintain what's already done. All the work was complete and perfect. Everything that Adam needed to sustain his life was freely provided. Eat freely of the tree of life and have fellowship with God.

What a life! God had provided him with everything needed to fulfill those expectations. As Adam walked in obedience he fulfilled God's purpose for him. Life was good, real good. You might say it was fulfilling and abundant.

His job was to be the caretaker of the garden and he was also to guard the garden from the snake. There is something about gardens and snakes. We have a garden and my wife always watches out for snakes when she goes into the garden. I do too for that matter. I hate snakes! (Me and Indiana Jones!)

The trouble for Adam began when the snake got in the garden. He let his guard down. We too must be careful to keep the snake out of the paradise that God has planned for us. Yet, we let him into our homes and lives through the things we watch and listen to. Keep the snake of doubt and destruction out of your home and life.

For the first time Adam's understanding of who he was and what was expected of him

was about to be challenged by three very powerful words, “Hath God said?”

“Hath God said?” That’s where everything started getting off tracks. When Adam listened to Satan and began to question the words of God, life became a train wreck. Satan is still repeating this same old line to us today. “Hath God said?” Does God’s Word really mean what He says?

Trouble starts when we begin to question the authority of God’s word for our life. When we no longer by faith accept it for face value and begin to think that there is something I must do to improve on it, this is when the wheels of our expectations begin to come off the cart of our life.

Think for a moment about what Satan was saying to Adam – *eat of this tree and you will be like God*. What’s fundamentally wrong with Satan’s line of reasoning? There was nothing Adam had *to do* to be like God, he was already *created* in God’s likeness and image.

It's a matter of creation, not works that makes us in the likeness and image of God. As it was with Adam in the beginning, it is still the same today with our new life in Christ. *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.* Salvation is the result of God's work - creation.

God is a Creator. He creates by the spoken word...*and God said.* We eat of the tree of Life and experience eternal life whenever we accept His word about us, who we are in Christ, by faith. There can never be any contribution on your part. There is no additional work that you can add. It is already good, complete and perfect.

Why would Adam have to do anything in order to become what he already is? Adam basically forgot *why* he is who he is and *Who* it was that made him. Adam was the result of God's creation not man's works. Adam was not a self-made man. What is said about self-made men – they have a tendency to worship their creator.

Satan's ploy is still the same: to shift our understanding, dependency, from the finished works of Jesus (who we are in Christ) to reliance upon our self-righteous works. This is when the relationship is broken. This is when faith is replaced by works. **This is sin and only this!** *For whatsoever is not of faith is sin.*

The moment that Adam acted out upon Satan's expectations and rejected God's completed work is when sin entered. Adam was no longer living by faith... *and whatsoever is not of faith is sin.*

*Do this and you'll be like God.* Adam allowed Satan to project unreal expectations upon him. Expectations that he was not able to reach, expectations that he could not fulfill, expectations that brought shame and destruction into his life and destroyed his relationship with God, his wife and ultimately his children.

Are you able to recognize "Hath God said?" above all the noise and clatter in this busy world? It's out there challenging us at every corner to depend upon self reliance and not

live by faith upon God's Word. Things that tempt us to disobey God's word - things like:

- "Come on, it won't hurt..."
- "Man, everyone's doing it..."
- "It's not that bad..."
- "It's only a movie..."
- "It'll make you feel good about yourself..."
- "God really didn't mean that..."

Satan is still the most subtle of the beasts. He wraps himself in clever disguises to keep us from living by faith in God's Word. But however the package is wrapped the *gift* is always the same – sin and death.

Adam soon found this out. I'm sure the proverbial "apple" tasted good for awhile. *There is pleasure in sin for a season.* But when the appeal of sin wore off the reality of disobedience set in. When Adam heard God's voice he hid from God in shame and nakedness.

What a strange sensation it must have been to experience sin for the first time. 4000

years later Jesus would experience this same sensation on the cross – the same tree – as He took upon himself the sins of the whole world.

Adam was feeling about as low as you could go. Lower than a snake's belly as we say in East Texas. When God asked him why he hid, Adam replied, "I was afraid." Fear was the first emotion produced by sin. Adam was afraid so he hid from God. The major fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil is fear. Fear drives every expectation in your life that is not from the tree of life. Fear is the opposite of faith.

Fear is the greatest destroyer in a relationship. Fear of approval or failure to live up to another's expectations always creates avoidance. Adam hid himself in fear because of his disobedience – a new set of expectations.

You have been there. You see someone in the mall or at church who you know has been gossiping about you and they do their best to avoid you. But you can't run forever and you certainly can't run from God.

When God finally confronted Adam what did Adam do? He started playing The Blame Game. He blamed “that woman you gave me.”

“That woman you gave me.” There’s a lot to be seen in Adam’s reply. He was not only blaming Eve, he was ultimately blaming God. In effect he was saying to God that if you had given me a better wife I wouldn’t be in this position. It’s always someone else’s fault for where we are in life. Adam was the first “victim.”

So Adam blamed Eve,  
Eve blames the Snake,  
The Snake leaves the garden  
With a big belly ache.

Life could be so simple if we just obeyed God and didn’t live by other’s expectations for our lives. And next time you hear “Hath God said?” simply reply, “Yes, God said it, I believe it and that settles it!”

Chapter Six –

“That woman you gave me.”

I have purposefully ignored Eve and her role in all these things until now where I can deal with her exclusively. You see, Eve is God’s *special* secret. What Eve is to Adam, the Church is to Christ. Just as we stated earlier that Adam was the prototype of Jesus, now we can see that Eve is a picture of the Church. It is through the Church that God will fulfill His eternal purpose.

When you understand Eve, how she was created and what her purpose was you can begin to understand the role of the Church in the eternal purpose of God. You can begin to see your purpose as an individual, a *member in particular*, of the Church, the body and *bride* of Christ. Eve represents God’s purposes and expectations of you. “May I call you Eve from now on?” “You go girl!”

The one thing in creation that was *not* good was for Adam to be alone. I find it interesting that God brings special attention to the creation of Eve in relation to Adam’s

need. When God created the fish, birds and animals, the Bible does not elaborate on the separate act of making males and females. It just states that He created them in general.

Obviously God created males and females of each species because He commanded them to *bring forth*. Yet with man, the acts of creating male and female are separate, distinct, even at different times. Why is this so? I believe it is so that we would not miss the point of Eve's unique purpose and place in creation.

God also brings to our attention to the fact that *it is not good that man should be alone*. Now how long did it take God to figure that one out? "See there, God only has *limited* foreknowledge! He didn't know it until *after* He created Adam."

"Come on, man, give me a break... please." Can the head say to the body, "I have no need of thee?" Does Christ have no need for the Church? Adam's need of Eve explains Christ's need of the Church, why He loved her and gave himself for her.

The husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body.

24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Ephesians 5:23-27

The reason that Adam's need is pointed out and Eve's separate creation given special attention is so we do not miss the importance of her role in the eternal purpose of God. God knew from the start of her creation. Indeed, *she* is the center of it all! She is the center of it because she is the

center of his love. *Love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it...* Jesus may have died for sinners, but He gave himself for the church. He gave Himself for you.

God knew all along that Adam would need Eve. *That* was a foregone conclusion. He wanted to make sure that you didn't miss the point. That you would understand *The Plan*, get the point and know His expectations of you. God's expectations of you are gloriously found in Eve.

Why did God make Eve? She was needed to help Adam fulfill his purpose in God's plan. He could not do it alone. Why did God make you? So *you* could help Jesus fulfill *His* purpose in God's plan. He is not doing it alone. He has chosen otherwise – to use the church.

Have you ever thought about the importance of your life in this way? I promise you Satan has. That's why he tries to create all kinds of hell in your life. That's why, like a roaring lion, he has set about to destroy your life. To replace God's expectations for you.

How is he doing that? What are his methods? Remember he is the most subtle of all beasts. He wants to destroy your life by getting you sidetracked from God's purpose for your life. His *modus operandi* – his method of operation – has always been with that same old but effective line, “Hath God said?”

He superimposes his expectations, gets you to exchange God's expectations for your life and replace them with his, or anyone else's. It doesn't matter as long as you don't find out the truth about what God thinks about and has planned for you!

He will use anything and anyone to lead you astray. He will even cause you to prosper or become famous. It doesn't matter; just get your eyes off of God's plan for you. He doesn't care if you become religious, even better.

Just as Eve was Adam's *helpmate* you are Jesus' *helpmate*. Your life is important to Jesus. More than important, it is crucial in fulfilling God's eternal purpose for Christ. That means your life has a mission, it has

purpose. Therefore God has expectations and purpose for your life. They are easily obtained in Christ; certainly not as hard as religion makes it. Religion wants to enslave you, Christ has come to set you free and give you abundant life.

So how was Eve made? Adam was made from the dust, the earthy realm. The dust represents the world and the things of this world. Eve was not made from the dust. She was taken out of Adam's side. Not from his head to rule over him, not from his feet so he could use her as a doormat, but she was taken from his side to co-rule with him.

Just a *side thought* (pun intended) for all you male chauvinist "oink, oink's." Eve's submission to Adam came after sin, not before. Her initial role was to co-reign with Adam. The Church's role is to co-reign with Christ. *Let this mind be in you...*

In Christian marriage the woman is restored to her rightful place alongside of man. *Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto*

*the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.*

Eve's creation was much different than Adam's. Adam came entirely from the dust, but Eve came entirely from Adam. She was made 100% of Adam's flesh and bone. She was *finished* 100% from Adam. By that, I mean that God did not start out making her with Adam's flesh and bone then finish her, *dust her off*, with some left over dust off the garden's floor. God did not run out of Adam then finish her with dust. He stated with Adam as her material and He finished her with Adam's substance.

Remember, Adam and Eve is a picture for us to understand His eternal plan for Christ and the Church. How God made Eve is how He is forming the Church. God caused a deep sleep to come upon Adam and from his side He brought forth Eve. She was made 100% from Adam and the Church is being made 100% from Christ. Not mostly from Christ and a little dust, no all Christ, no dust! The Church is all Christ, nothing of this world, not even a little bit. No mixture!

Eve was Adam's counterpart. She was made to compliment him in every way – physically, mentally and spiritually. Together, as one, they would fulfill the purpose of God for man. So too, Christ and the Church will fulfill God's eternal purpose.

God *squeezed* Adam, but He *built* Eve. In researching the method of *how* God created Adam and Eve I discovered a unique difference in how He brought them into existence. God is a Methodist, not a United Methodist, just a good ole Methodist! He has a method, pattern, in all that He does.

The methods were vastly different. He *squeezed* Adam into an image, but He *built* Eve. The Hebrew words are totally different in scope and nature. Why? Again, so that we may understand *how* Jesus is building His church. *I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it...*

Like a lump of clay upon a potter's wheel Adam was *squeezed* by God's hands into the likeness and image of Jesus. As an individual you are now the work of God in

*re-creating* you into the image of Jesus. You are God's *recreation*! God takes pleasure and delight in restoring you.

For we are *his workmanship*, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be conformed* to the image of his Son... Romans 8:29

God is *squeezing* you into the image of Jesus. Sometimes you wish He wouldn't squeeze so hard, but remember to keep your eyes of faith on the end results.

Next, Eve came out of Adam. Everything needed for Eve's *building* came out of that which had been *squeezed into* Adam. Sounds like a lot of church building programs! Squeeze the members so we can build the Family Life Center.

I don't want to lose you here, so hang on, because this is an important lesson to see. As a born again person, one who *was* born physically of Adam's seed, you have now become a new man in Christ by a spiritual birth, however, there is a mental and physical process you must still go through before you are totally transformed.

Remember, Adam was made in the likeness (spiritually) and image (physically) of God. God is now doing a *complete* restoration of you in Christ – spirit, soul and body - in that order. He begins with your spirit, then your mind and finally your body. In theological terms we call this three stage process *justification, sanctification and glorification.*

In the creation of the first Adam, God *squeezed* and then He *blew*. What? Yeah, God *squeezed* before He *blew*. He first made man physically –*squeezed* him - then *blew* into Adam's nostrils His spirit so that he would become a living soul. God squeezed then He blew!

Now in the act of redemption and re-creation, God blows *then* He squeezes.

God's first work when you are born again is to blow His spirit into your spirit, or inner man, enabling your soul to come alive again. He blows (breathes) His spirit into you when you are saved. His Spirit and your spirit become *one* in the new birth. *He that is joined to the Lord is one spirit...*

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." John 3:6-8 NKJV

After the *spiritual* birth comes the mental and physical *squeezing* of the potter's hands upon your life – to transform the way you think and how you act. It is a process of *transformation*. The Greek word used is *metamorphous* and requires a mental change

*before* there can be a physical transformation.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye *transformed* by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.  
Romans 12:1-2

At the point of your new birth, your *spirit* was born again, but your mind still needed renewing. You needed understanding of what God's expectations are of your thinking and lifestyle. Your thinking determines your actions. In other words, God's work on your spirit was finished but your mind still needed a little squeezing, to influence your lifestyle.

This *squeezing* process is called *growing* in the grace and knowledge of God. Many Christians have been genuinely born again, but they are still trying to live up to Adam's expectations of them. They fail to see that with the new birth comes a new set of expectations that have already been met and fulfilled through Christ. They need a new mindset. They need squeezing.

The Apostle Paul was continually dealing with this very issue in the early church as Jews who were born again by God's grace thought they had to continue keeping the Law with their physical deeds to be saved.

Now back to the garden again to finish the point. When God finished *squeezing* and *blowing* Adam, He took something *out of* him in order *to build* Eve – who would be his counterpart and compliment. What God took out of Adam, He first put into Adam.

God *built* Eve. She was *built* out of that which had already been *squeezed*. In researching the word *built* in the Old Testament I found that it is used exclusively

to *build* the following: *a house, a wall, a city, a tower, a sheepfold, an altar, a Temple* and *to have children*. It is not used to describe anything else as the object of its actions.

This definition accurately describes Eve's purpose for Adam. It's also the exact same purpose of the Church's for Christ. No wonder Jesus said, "I will *build* my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." The Church is to be *a house, a wall, a city, a tower, a sheepfold, an altar, a Temple* and *to have children* for Jesus. If that was Eve's purpose, then it is also your purpose as the helpmate of Jesus.

But before He *built* Eve, God had to *squeeze* Adam.

Now fast forward in your mind 4000 years and see Jesus, the Last Adam, dying on the cross (the *tree of the knowledge of good and evil*). *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangs on a tree... that we might become the righteousness of God... a new creature...*

Jesus became the fruit of sin and hung fully ripened on the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. A Roman soldier pierces his side to make sure He's dead – the fully ripened fruit of the Law. The work of the Law was “finished” so the Father *squeezed* His Son and from His side came flowing blood and water.

The blood is to remove the curse and its effects upon us. The water is to give us a new and abundant life in Him. *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new...*

It was *flesh and bone* that came from the first Adam's side, but now after sin and the need for Adam's redemption the Father took out blood and water from Last Adam's side. His blood purchases us – the material for His new creation. *The church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood...*

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain

conversation received by tradition [*expectations*] from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world [*slain from the foundation of the world*], but was manifest in these last times for you, 1 Peter 1:18-20 [*Author's emphasis*].

His blood removes the curse and His water gives us His Life.

He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

39 But this he spoke of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive... John 7:38-39

Just as the first Adam was squeezed by the Father, now the last Adam was squeezed in order to build something for His Son. The

Father *squeezed* Jesus on the cross in order to *build* the Church. The Father squeezed so that He could *blow*.

Some fifty days after the Son had been squeezed, 120 believers were gathered on Solomon's porch in the Temple waiting for the promise. What was the promise? What were they waiting for? They were waiting for the Father *to blow*!

And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:2-4

The new Eve – the Church - was *built* that Pentecost morning as the Father *blew* upon that which had been *squeezed*. For some

2000 years Jesus has been building this glorious, spotless Church and one day she will be presented to Him – the bride of the Lamb.

Let's bring it all home. Just like the Father squeezed the first Adam, He squeezes you *after* He has blown His Holy Spirit into you. It isn't always comfortable going through this squeezing process.

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. Romans 8:18-19 NKJV

But the result of all the *squeezing* is to bring you to a place of readiness that He can take something out of you and *build* something of your life. And what He takes out of you to build with is exactly what He first *blew* into you – His Holy Spirit.

Just as Eve was a new creation *built* solely from Adam, so too are you now made a new creature in Christ by his blood and water.

*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new, 2 Corinthians 5:17.*

What are the consequences of your new birth in Christ? You have been taken out of the dust realm, no longer food for the serpent, and transformed, squeezed, into the body of Jesus. You are no longer part of Adam. You are now part of Jesus - 100% Jesus! You are ONE with Him, in Him and by Him through the Holy Spirit's work which He *blew* into you at your new birth.

Just as Eve was presented to Adam and they became one in the flesh, you have been given to Christ, bought and paid for with His blood (*ahead of time*), and have become one with Him spiritually. *He that is joined to the Lord is one spirit.*

Do you begin to see the eternal magnitude of God's expectations of you and the glorious privilege it is to be a part of His eternal purpose? God planned his expectations of you before the foundation of the world.

When He was drawing the blueprint for His kingdom He included you and gave you a part to play. Your life is not insignificant; on the contrary, it is very important to Him. Your life has meaning, eternal meaning. God wants to *build* something with you.

God planned good things for you. Good things to be accomplished in you through His strength. *I can do all things through Christ who gives me the strength.* He planned them and signed off on them before the world was made. He even made the provisions necessary for you to fulfill them. *All ahead of time!*

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained [*before He made the world*] that we should walk in them [*Just like Adam walked in the garden - in rest*], Ephesians 2:10. [*Author's emphasis*]

God wants to build something with your life according to His expectations of you and no

one else's. His plans for your life are interconnected with every other Christian's life in the world. This great global intersecting network of lives fulfilling God's eternal purpose is called the Church.

Every Christian is being squeezed by God to prepare them to be a part of this global outreach. When each Believer reaches that place of readiness God takes out of them the flesh and bone necessary to make His Church become a living breathing organism, not organization, in the earth for all to see.

May the Father blow upon us with a mighty wind. *Not by might, nor by power, but by your spirit...*

## kNOw Expectations

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## Chapter Seven – Christ Would Come From the Woman

As a Christian you are a member of the Church, the body of Christ, the Bride of Christ. One day Christ will present you to himself as His Bride without spot or wrinkle (Ephesians 5:25-27). That is His eternal plan for you! You are predestined to be the Bride of Jesus. You might say it is a *pre-arranged marriage ahead of time*.

I'm sure that there has never been a woman as beautiful as Eve. She must have taken Adam's breath away. When Adam awoke from surgery and his eyes regained their focus I'm sure he said, "Yeah! That's what I've been looking for. Thank you, God!" Eve was "something worth looking at."

With no less enthusiasm, Jesus looks at you and says, "Yeah! Thank you, Father, that's what I've been looking for! That's what I gave my life for!" Have you ever realized that *you* are the apple of His eyes? You are the object of His affection, His love. You are the center of His plan. You are "something worth looking at."

*For this reason shall a man leave his father and mother and cleave unto his wife and they two shall become one flesh.* Adam spoke these words when he first saw Eve, before sin had entered the picture; when he first saw her, heard her soft voice fall upon his ears and felt her tender touch upon his flesh. He knew then God's plan. They were to become one and fulfill the eternal plan of God.

*For this reason* Jesus left His home in glory; left His *father and mother* – The Father and the Holy Ghost – and gave His life a ransom on Calvary's tree. So that He could *cleave* unto you His beloved, become one with you His bride and fulfill God's eternal purpose *with* you. This is the greatest love story ever told!

How great Adam's love must have been for Eve. What's the saying, "There's no love like first love." *This* was first love. There hasn't been so great a love between a man and a woman since this *first love*. It was the only love between a man and a woman that was not based upon unreal expectations! It was the only case of marital love where sin

wasn't present. It was love placed in their hearts by God.

So great was his love there was nothing Adam would not do for his bride. He would even die for her. So great is the love of Christ for His Bride there is nothing He would not do for her. He would even die for her. He did! In fact, He *willingly* became sin for her.

There is no sin in Christ's love. It is never motivated by any unreal expectations. It is motivated by an eternal purpose.

When Eve brought the fruit to Adam he knew the consequences of his actions – *the day that you eat of it you shall surely die*. The serpent had come through Eve to get to the man. He had deceived her into eating, taking on his projected, unreal expectations. Now, would the man follow suit?

Adam was faced with a choice. He was not deceived. He made a calculated choice; he disobeyed. He listened to the voice of his wife. He willingly forsook God's expectations of him and assumed a new

standard to live by. When he began to live his life based upon expectations of him other than God's the outcome was disastrous.

We know this by what God said to Adam when the *guilty three* stood before the Creator now become Judge.

To Adam God said:

*Because thou hast hearkened  
unto the voice of thy wife, and  
hast eaten of the tree, of which  
I commanded thee, saying,  
Thou shalt not eat of it:*

There are two ways that we can view this. We can take the approach like that of F. Scott Fitzgerald in his classic *The Great Gatsby* that the downfall of all great men is a woman. There is some truth to this idea. It depends upon which *woman* and which *man* you are talking about.

Just as there are only two men in the Bible – Adam and Christ – there are only two women – the whore and the Bride. The whore prostitutes herself in pleasing many

men for her gain and power through manipulation. The Bride is faithful to one man to serve and honor him alone. The whore has many children from many fathers – bastards all. The bride has many children from only one father - sons. Bastards have no inheritance, Sons do! Bastards receive no discipline, Sons do!

Throughout the Bible these two women represent the two categories of expectations that men join themselves and reproduce children. They represent the works of the flesh by the law or the promise of the Spirit by the hearing of Faith. They are Hagar and Sarah.

Their destiny and that of their children is vastly different.

28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.

29 But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.

30 Nevertheless what saith the scripture? **Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.**

31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.

5 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. Galatians 4:28-5:1

The bond woman and her children will be cast out. There is no place in God's Kingdom for the flesh and any of its children. When you live your life trying to produce something that is "good" by any other expectation than God's, you produce something in your life that can only conflict with God's plan for your life.

You will ultimately have to forsake the children of your expectations if the works of the Spirit are to have their rightful promised place in your life. This caused great sorrow

for Abraham because he loved Hagar and Ishmael. It will also cause pain and suffering in your life when you face the reality of having to leave behind the products of wrong expectations.

When Abraham stopped following God's expectations (that the heir would come through him and Sarah) and attempted to fulfill the promise by someone else's expectations (Sarah's) of how God would work, the *anti-promise* was birthed. And instead of remaining faithful to his bride and the expectation of God, Abraham joined himself to the *other* woman.

Instead of Abraham resting in the promise that God had completed the work of the promise, he listened to the woman and ate from the wrong tree. Like his father Adam, Abraham willingly disobeyed God.

And too, the older son Ishmael, like Cain, was at odds with his younger brother Isaac. They are still killing each other today. The Arabs (descendants of Ishmael) want to wipe Israel (descendants of Isaac) off the map.

It is interesting how the sins of the fathers are past down to their sons. Neither son from Abraham's physical seed accepts Jesus as the Messiah. Neither son accepts God's expectation of the Messiah.

The reason they don't; Jesus is the *spiritual* son of Abraham. He is *the* seed of Abraham. Just as it was never about Adam always about Christ; it was never about Ishmael or Isaac; it was always about *the seed* Christ.

16 Now to Abraham and his seed [*Christ*] were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds [*Ishmael and Isaac*], as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

Galatians 3:16 [*Author's emphasis*]

Christ is the seed of the woman, He is the seed of Abraham and He is the firstborn among many sons. We, who have trusted in Christ are those many sons of Abraham.

14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.  
Galatians 3:14,29

As one possible proof that my principle of expectations is consistent throughout the Bible may I illustrate this point from another story about two women and their children. In the book of Ruth there were two women - Orpah (*turning the back*) and Ruth (*something worth looking at*).

They again represent the two sets of expectations. We readily see how Ruth followed God's expectations for finding a husband and through much "squeezing" she found her man on the threshing floor. She married the richest man in the county, Boaz (A picture of Christ- *strength*), and they had Obed (*a servant who worships*). Obed

fathered Jesse and Jesse fathered David. King David (*beloved*) was the grandson of Ruth (*something worth looking at*).

But little is known about Orpah (*turning the back*). She obviously made the wrong choice of expectations as to where to find Mr. Right. She remained in Moab (*desire*) instead of following Naomi (pleasant one) and Ruth to Bethlehem-judah (*house of bread and praise*) where Boaz (*strength - a mighty man of wealth*) lived.

Boaz would have been just as obligated to marry Orpah as he was to Ruth in fulfilling his role as their kinsman redeemer in siring an heir for their dead husbands. But Orpah remained in Moab and married a Moabite. Her grandson would later meet Ruth's grandson, David, on a field of battle to determine who would rule Israel. You see, Orpah's grandson was Goliath. (A little known fact according to rabbinical accounts.)

The offsprings of our expectations will ultimately face each other to determine who will sit on the throne of your life. David

could not use the armor of Saul, projected expectations, to defeat Goliath. He had to rely upon the sling and a stone, the method with which God had trained him – the expectations of God.

The thread of expectations runs throughout the tapestry of history. It started in the Garden of Eden and it will be finished in the book of Revelation. The two lines of expectations are always destined to meet in a showdown – on the plains of the valley of Elah between David and Goliath or on the plains of the valley of Megiddo between Christ and the antichrist.

They also have a destiny to meet in a showdown in your life too. You will ultimately have to choose whose expectations you will allow to rule your life. Who will be the victor on the plains of the battlefield of your mind? *Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision*, Joel 3:14.

Choose wisely.

If the Bride, Eve, represents the church and her role with Christ, the whore represents the apostate church, Babylon – the Great Whore – and her role with the antichrist – *Adam*, man in the place of Christ.

These two couples meet in the book of Revelation to determine which set of expectations will rule the world and which man will be God. Will it be Christ and His Church? Or will it be the Antichrist (the spirit of Satan in fallen Adam) and the Whore – *mystery religion*- with her many daughters? Your life and the spiritual battles you fight are a microcosm of the events of the book of Revelation.

I promised to be short and painless, but I hope that you are beginning to understand that everything, every story in the Bible, is about expectations – whose expectations are you following. Are you following the expectations of Christ? Are you *His* bride? Or will you willingly following, live by, anyone's expectations to satisfy your flesh in order to gain control and power through manipulation. Are you Adam's bride? Or have you prostituted yourself to the world?

Opposed to Fitzgerald's worldly view of women, I prefer to view Adam and Eve in light of their being an antitype of Christ and the Church. I see something far more wonderful in the love of an eternal savior and His love for His beloved in that fact that he *hearkened unto the voice of thy wife*.

God said to Adam, *Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree...*

You must ask yourself these questions: When did Christ hear your desperate cry for help? When did He see you on your hands and knees begging for forgiveness, longing for His mercy and great love? When did He see you as His own, His beloved, His spotless glorious Bride? When did He *hearken* unto your voice?

He heard you from the foundation of the world! It was your cry he heard. It was something in the way you said "I love you" that grabbed His heart and caused Him to fall head over heels in love.

When the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost where in their office doing the prep, approving the blueprints of *Project Creation* and were discussing the section on redemption, through their omniscient foreknowledge they reviewed your life and heard you calling upon the name of Jesus.

At that point when Jesus heard your cry, he interrupted the meeting and said, “I’ll go, I’ll be the one to be the sacrifice. I’ll pay for their sins and redeem them. I will go because I just fell in love.”

And there, in the middle of that meeting somewhere in eternity Jesus cried out to you, “I hear you, baby, I’m coming! I’ll be there shortly, hold on. I’m bringing your answer! I am your answer. I’m all you’ll ever need. I’m coming, I’m coming! I love you too.”

And so before you ever cried out He heard your prayer, before you ever asked He provided your need. How could He do that? He hearkened unto your voice. And now when the answer arrives He says to you, “I’m here, honey, you can relax I got it all

taken care of.” He loved us before we loved Him – *ahead of time*.

Jesus hearkened unto the voice of His bride – you. He heard you and knew you before you were even born. You were in the blueprints. You have a purpose. And when He heard your voice He wrote your name in the Lamb’s Book of Life *before* the foundation of the world – ahead of time.

But before He could write in the book the Lamb had to be slain, sin had to be resolved.

Revelation 17:8

...whose names were not written in the book of life *from the foundation of the world*,

Revelation 13:8

And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb *slain from the foundation of the world*.

Romans 8:29

*For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

Jeremiah 1:5

Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee...

Solomon describes the feelings Jesus has for your voice.

Let me hear thy voice; for sweet is thy voice, and thy countenance is comely.

Song of Solomon 2:14

From eternity past what *dying* love Christ has had for the Church - His Bride. What longing, looking forward to the day that she would be presented to Him. Like Jacob working for Leah and finally receiving Rachael (another two women), Christ has

been patiently waiting for the day when He would see her in all her glory – first Israel and now at the end of the age the Church.

Christ has been *harkening unto the voice of his wife*. He has been listening for her voice, your voice, no sweeter voice, to fall upon his ears. Your voice draws Him, woos Him, to fulfill His eternal purpose with you; to become one with you in the eternal love of the Father.

And it was *that* voice He followed willingly into sin - to willing eat of the forbidden tree. It has been argued, I believe rightfully so, that Eve was deceived but Adam ate of the tree willingly. If so, what a picture this is of Christ willingly becoming a curse to redeem His bride. Christ died for sinners, but He gave Himself for the Church.

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.  
2 Corinthians 5:21

25 Husbands, love your wives,  
even as Christ also loved the  
church, and gave himself for it;  
26 That he might sanctify and  
cleanse it with the washing of  
water by the word,  
27 That he might present it to  
himself a glorious church, not  
having spot, or wrinkle, or any  
such thing; but that it should be  
holy and without blemish.  
Ephesians 5:25-27

Just as it was Eve's voice in the Garden of Eden that drew Adam to the tree to eat, it was your voice that Jesus heard in the garden of Gethsemane that wooed Him to Calvary's tree to eat of the cursed fruit of sin that would separate Him from His Father.

There is so much I'd like to say at this point about the next two verses, but I promised to make this painless and short.

18 Thorns also and thistles  
shall it bring forth to thee; and  
thou shalt eat the herb of the  
field;

19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Jesus now has flawed men (dust of the earth) from which to grow fruit. What a description of the Church. In all our fleshy weakness the power of Christ is revealed in this mortal, decaying, dying flesh. From among the thorns and thistles Christ is able, *in the sweat of His face*, bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

In the Garden Jesus sweat great drops of blood. In this do we eat bread in remembrance of Him. In this do we commune at the Lord's Table and drink of His blood and eat of His flesh. But Jesus said He would not drink again until He drinks it new in the Kingdom - *till thou return unto the ground*.

God became a man. He created man in his likeness and image so that He could become

a man made of dust – *for out of it thou wast taken*. That was the plan.

till thou return unto the ground;  
for out of it wast thou taken: for  
dust thou art, and unto dust  
shalt thou return

God became a man so that He could go to the cross, die and be buried - *till thou return unto the ground*. On the cross Jesus became the embodiment sin. That body was buried and became *dust*. The body of sin is destroyed! It has gone away – back into the dust as it was in the beginning. In other words, In Christ EVERYTHING has been restored to the original plan!

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.

Jesus rose on the third day THE NEW  
MAN. In Him you are a NEW MAN too!

(Personal notes to finish book)

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This is all revealed to us in what God pronounced upon Adam, Eve and the serpent after the fall. After Adam and Eve sinned God told everyone involved the consequences of their actions.

If Eve was the special secret of God's plan why was she the one the serpent approached? Why was she his primary target? Why didn't the serpent directly approach Adam, tempt him?

Eve has a unique place in God's eternal purpose. It is through Eve that God would be revealed in the flesh. It is through Eve that the Messiah— *the seed of the woman* — would come. It is *the seed of the woman* that shall crush the serpent's head. It is that which will come out of Eve that will destroy the "seed of the serpent." So then, it is that which comes forth from the church that will crush the head of the serpent.

Remember God's eternal purpose is to use *the Church* to display his wisdom to all the rebellious angels in the heavens. Eve is a picture of the Church. What is reproduced and birthed out of Eve – *the seed of the woman* – is what will destroy the serpent.

cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return. Genesis 3:17-19

If Adam is a picture of Jesus please give me the liberty of interpreting the following.

To be continued...

The phone rang and we began organizing our first Come Pray With Me rally. Today is May 11, 2011, just getting back to this manuscript. Please pray.