



[www.beyond-today.ca](http://www.beyond-today.ca)

***Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.***

***"Saved by His Life"***

***November 2017***

There are two kinds of people from God's perspective; those who have the Son and thus have life, and those who have not the Son and thus do not have life.

This is a message, a message of good news. It is a message full of hope and grace and love. It is a message of forgiveness, of the way to get back to the Father, of the way to have our sins forgiven by a holy God who has been personally offended. It is a message of truth. It is a message of life.

It happened like this: In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. He created all things in the seen and in the unseen universe. He is the Creator, and because He is the Creator, He is owed honor and glory and obedience which flows from the trusting heart of His creation. Everything in the creation does the Creator's bidding. Satan and 1/3 of the angels rebelled and were cast out of heaven, but still the kingdom of darkness must obey their Creator, even if unwillingly. God is the origin of spirits.

Only man, namely Adam, made in the image of God, knowingly and willingly disobeyed the one thing God asked him not to do: don't eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. There was a covenant between Adam and his Creator, but Adam basically blew it. He listened to another word. He desired to walk another way. He listened to another wisdom than that of God Only Wise. In doing that, He rejected Christ, the Wisdom of God. He desired that wisdom that was earthly, sensual, and demonic. He had been told that were he to eat of the fruit of this particular tree, he would surely die. He ate anyway. And so Adam plunged himself and all of humanity into what we call the estate of sin and misery.

He didn't die right away physically, but he died spiritually. He lost the blessing of God's presence. He lost The Life. He lost the hope of eternal life. He had put something between himself and the Living God. He fell and was now dead in trespasses and sins, totally unable to re-connect. He had broken the covenant of works.

God is a family type of God. The Living and True God is Spirit, infinite, eternal, holy, just, merciful, gracious and longsuffering, having all power, knowing all things, everywhere present. We speak of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These three are One. God's Name is One. We talk about it as the Godhead. And long before anything was created, there was a covenant made among the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We call it the Covenant of Redemption.

You see, God had and has a plan. That plan is to glorify the Son. And so God promised to send a Redeemer, who would be born in the fullness of time, born to a woman, born under the Law. God put enmity between the Serpent (Satan) and the Seed of the Woman (Eve). Two seeds would grow into two kingdoms. The Seed of Satan would grow into the kingdom of darkness. The Seed of the Woman would become the kingdom of God.

God relates to humanity by means of covenants. In the Garden, God initiated the Covenant of Grace based on His Promise. God made a covenant of preservation with Noah. He initiated a covenant with Abraham. God worked miracles as signs and established the Children of Promise. He chose a nation, Israel, as His own special people who were to demonstrate by keeping His Law given to a redeemed people that as a holy God, there would be a difference, a separation of what is life and what is death; what is holy and what is unholy; what is clean and what is unclean; what is love and what is not. The people all agreed to keep this Law, but they didn't. The Standard was perfect, personal, perpetual obedience. The Law had no power in and of itself to give Life.

The result of all this, and I am condensing a lot of the full story, is that although the Jews had an advantage by having the Law of Moses, they still could not be reconciled to the Living God through law-keeping. No, because it is not by works of righteousness that we have done but according to the mercy of God, God loved us, by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit. (Titus 3:4-7)

**For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For you have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but you have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. (Romans 8:14, 15)**

Promise. You see, the Holy Spirit is the Promise of the Father. All people are what the Bible calls sinners. They miss the mark. They fall short of the glory of God. They are dead in trespasses and sins, blind, deaf, and hopelessly unable to raise themselves from this death. The fact is that no one escapes death. I think it is there so that we remember we cannot rescue ourselves from its grip, from its power. Death puts our lives into perspective. We are to remember the LORD our God. He is Sovereign, Supreme, and the Source of all Life and Blessing.

So how does God pull this off? After all God is perfect in all His ways. That includes His justice. God is just and true, holy and righteous. He has been personally offended and offenders justly deserve His wrath and the penalty for sin which is death.

Well, God is love. Yes, He is. But love is not God. Love is an attribute of God. God's love is a holy love, infinite, and pure. Again, God took the initiative, out of His love and His grace and His mercy. God keeps His promises, the greatest of which is that He would provide a Redeemer. He would provide Himself a sacrifice.

Now in the Law, sins could be covered by means of a vicarious atonement. A sacrifice was required, a blood sacrifice. The life of the soul is in the blood. There were sins of a high hand, however, for which there was no atonement. Other than that, "The priest shall make atonement for him for the sin which he committed, and he shall be forgiven" (Leviticus 4:35b). Without the remission of sins, there can be no forgiveness. Without the remission of sins, there can be no reconciliation.

“The sin offering purified the sanctuary; it removed the defilement of sin that occurred when the people broke the covenant.

“Our holy God cannot abide the presence of those people and things that are unclean (Leviticus 22:3), and each time people sinned under the old covenant, they dirtied themselves. The burnt offering solved the problem of the Lord’s wrath, but it did not purify the one offering the sacrifice. There still needed to be expiation, or the removal of sin’s pollution, from the worshipers and the instruments of worship. The blood of the sin offering accomplished this cleansing. The tabernacle that became defiled because it was located in the midst of a sinful people was cleansed by the blood of the sacrifice, and the sinner was made clean and able to stand before God again (Leviticus 4:1–5:13).

“Unintentional sins and sins of omission were dealt with in the sin offering. These were sins people committed in ignorance of the Mosaic code or when they forgot those laws they had learned. Sins committed with a “high hand” were not covered (Num. 15:22–31). A high-handed sin is one a professing believer commits boldly and defiantly, not caring about the consequences and feeling no guilt about it once committed. It is a sin people commit fearlessly as they shake their fists, literally or figuratively, at the Lord. A sin committed with a high hand is not always the same thing as an intentional sin — all high-handed sins are intentional but not all intentional sins are high-handed. The truly converted will not commit high-handed sins, though they may commit sins of intention, albeit only after and during a struggle against the flesh (Rom. 7:7–25).”  
<http://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/sin-offering/>

If things are looking bleak, good. If we’re thinking about how connected we are with all humanity in our being dirty, rotten, scoundrel sinners, worms and no man, and dust—good.

**For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. (Romans 5:10)**

Because in the fullness of time, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, face to face, and the Word was God, always was. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. His Name is Jesus, and He was sent by God, sent by the Father to save. A person is reconciled to God by Jesus’ death and saved by His life. It is all a gift. It is all by the grace of God.

Jesus is the Infinite God-Man. He was sent from the Father in heaven to earth on a mission and with a message. Take a 180-degree turn and believe. Believe in Jesus, believe Jesus, and believe what Jesus believes. His message was “repent or perish,” “repent and believe the gospel.”

**...The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent, and believe the gospel. (Mark 1:15)**

**Do you suppose that these Galileans were sinners above all of the Galileans, because they suffered such things? [Referring to some Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices] I tell you, No: but, except you repent, you shall all likewise perish. (Luke 13:3)**

We’re on a collision course headed for destruction. We think we are alive but we are in reality spiritually dead. We may be going to church, singing in the choir, moral in our own estimation, at least when compared with those others. We may be thinking that Mother Church saves, or that a friend or spouse saves, or that angels save, or we can save ourselves. We say there are many roads to God. Yes, there are. Everyone will stand before a holy God, before Jesus Christ,

as Judge. There will be a separation. Some will have their destiny in eternal punishment as a second death and others will have their destiny be eternal life.

Jesus Christ is God. He lived the life pleasing to His Father, a life we are not able to pull off, not to perfection. Jesus died to pay the penalty for sin. In asking His Father to forgive because of ignorance, all who believe Jesus can be forgiven. Jesus, who knew no sin, became the sin offering in the place of those for whom He died. He made atonement for sin by the shedding of His Blood and by the offering of His Body. He made Peace through the Blood of the Cross.

What Jesus did as bearer of our sin, as bearer of the wrath of God, as bearer of the just penalty for sin, as bearer of the curse, and as bearer of the glory of God, means for those who believe: Expiation, Redemption, Propitiation, Reconciliation, Restoration to favor, knowing God as Father by means of adoption into His Family, and the destruction of Satan's kingdom such that Satan's power over our lives is broken, he has been dethroned and made a public spectacle of, and one day, true believers will live free of the presence of sin.

**But God commended His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by His Blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. (Romans 5:8, 9)**

This is love--that Christ died for the ungodly; that while we were enmity, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Jesus rose from the dead, as He said, indicating that the Father accepted Christ's sacrifice of Himself on behalf of His.

**It is the Spirit giving/making/producing life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. (John 6:63)**

The Holy Spirit is the Life-Producer. He regenerates the heart so that a person wants to turn, to repent, and to believe. What kind of faith is saving faith? It is not a mere intellectual assent like knowing Jesus the way demons know Him. The demons said they knew who Jesus is, but wondered if Jesus had come to torment them before the time. Do you believe like that? Even the devils believe like that. And saving faith is not temporal, for this life only. We all pretty much put forth this kind of faith, especially during a crisis. But it's not for The Life. No, saving faith is a heart-felt and hearty reliance upon Jesus Christ alone and only as both Savior and LORD. Jesus as LORD means He is in control of our destiny. We put our lives into His hands. We trust Jesus to take care of our past, that He has accomplished on our behalf what is acceptable to God to have our sins forgiven and to have reconciliation with Him. This trust is to be a continuing trust and confident reliance such that we trust in future grace, in the supply of the Holy Spirit, in the Promise to save us to the uttermost.

Jesus knows all those whom the Father has given Him. He will seek you out and He will find you. There's nowhere you can hide from the Holy Spirit. Jesus is the Author and Finisher of saving faith. That faith will flow right out of Him into you and back to Him and He will finish it. Jesus finishes what He begins. God is faithful, and He also will do it. It's by Promise, and shouldn't we all rejoice that it's all of God and none of us?

A person is justified, able to have right standing before God Almighty, by grace through faith, and that faith is not even of oneself. That faith is a gift. No one will be boasting in heaven. The power is Resurrection power, not human effort. Jesus was raised from the dead. He came in the power of an endless life. He voluntarily laid down His life and took it up again. Love raised Jesus from the dead. That same love raises a believer out from among the dead and puts them in the kingdom of God's dear Son. The believer has peace with God, access to God, a glorious and

blessed hope, a new and better way to live free from the bondage of sin, a love that is poured out into the heart by the Holy Spirit, and a very exciting life living with Someone who has no fear and whose love does no harm. The message is all about reconciliation, about forgiveness and being back in favor with the Father. It's better than Adam ever dreamed. You can find out...but you have to start somewhere.



Just the Messenger,

*Mary Craig*

Mary Craig, D. Min.

**Colossians 1:19-22 “For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.”**

© 2017 Mary Craig Ministries, Inc. All rights reserved.

P.S. Thank you for giving to MCM! Donate: Mary Craig Ministries, Inc., P. O. Box 4610, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33338-4610 or through PayPal® online at [www.marycraig.org](http://www.marycraig.org). Go to [marycraig.org](http://marycraig.org) for the latest articles and words received. Take a look and see all that God is doing through this ministry, in world missions, in evangelism, the Barnabas Project, Craighthouse® Christian Fellowship, home visitation, Kinetic Koinonia, media, Bible study books available through the [online Catalog](#), and more. Worship with us 4:30 p.m. Sundays. Grow and flourish in small group ministry at Craighthouse® Christian Fellowship, located in the Pompano Plaza at 114 E. Mc Nab Road, Pompano Beach, FL 33060. Log on to [www.craighthouse.org](http://www.craighthouse.org) for a map, current events, and Bible studies. Reach MCM at 954-491-7270. Send in your prayer requests. Follow MCM Bible teachings and Rev. Jim Craig’s sermons; go to [www.marycraig.org](http://www.marycraig.org) and click on “Audio Bible Studies” or “Divine Appointment” radio ministry; or go to [www.mcmtffr.org](http://www.mcmtffr.org) for audio sermons and teachings and Friday night handout sheets. Free. Go to [www.marycraigverses.org](http://www.marycraigverses.org) for “Enjoying God for Life,” daily encouragement and growing in your faith. Go to [www.marycraig.smugmug.com](http://www.marycraig.smugmug.com) for some pictures of MCM world missions. Mary Craig Ministries, Inc. is a 501© (3) nonprofit corporation founded in 1993. Federal ID 65-0429517.