

Our Relationship with Jesus Christ

By the time you finish your cup of coffee or tea or return to your home you will have forgotten 60% of what has been said or read in God's Word.

By tomorrow morning you will have forgotten 95% unless you review in your mind what has been said.

A few things are matter of life and death in the world in which we live.

The possession of a compass for a sea voyage.

A guide for a journey across a desert.

To ignore these vital things is not a gamble, it is to commit suicide, we get it right or we die.

Our relationship with Jesus Christ is such a matter of life or death, eternal death.

Romans 5:9-10 [NIV] *“Since we have now been **justified by his blood**, how much more shall we be **saved from God’s wrath** through him! For if, when we were God’s enemies, we were **reconciled to him through the death of his Son**, how much more, having been reconciled, **shall we be saved through his life!**”*

Note two parts to our salvation from eternal death.

1 **Justified by Christ’s sacrifice.** Made just-as-if we had never sinned.

2 *“Saved from God’s wrath,”* eternal death, through Jesus Christ.

“Reconciled” – made at one with God the Father and *“saved”* [from eternal death] through His life.

Romans 6:23 [NIV] *“For **the wages of sin is death**, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

All our efforts to become righteous or gain God’s favour will end in death.

We can never under our own strength earn or deserve salvation.

How do we as individuals come into this saving relationship with Jesus Christ?

We need to learn the correct answer for to fail will guarantee eternal death.

Have I now got your attention?

The first step is to accept the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as a substitute for our own deserved death.

We are now justified and **not** cut off from God the Father.

This is as far as many Christians go in life.

The next essential step is this saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

The key is found in one scripture which we need to make our central guideline for the whole of our life.

Romans 12:1 [NIV] *“Therefore...”*

Whenever we see this word in scripture we need to know *“what it is there for?”* that is, read what has just been said.

The previous verses are referring to the saving of Israel, who are a template for the saving of all humanity.

Romans 12:1 [NIV] continued *“... I urge you, brothers in view of God’s mercy...”*

This is directly referring to the justifying sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Romans 12:1 [NIV] continued *“... offer your bodies as living sacrifices ...”*

Let us stop and meditate on what has just been said.

“Bodies” is Greek word *“soma”* referring to complete life, body, mind and spirit.

“Sacrifice” referring to the Old Testament *“burnt offering sacrifice”* in which all the sacrifice was burnt up completely on the altar.

Jesus Christ was such a sacrifice.

“Living” – again following Jesus Christ who is our living Saviour.

Romans 12:1 [NIV] continued *“... holy and pleasing to God [Jesus Christ is God] ... this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

We are talking about total living sacrifice of every part of our life.

Romans 5:1 [NIV] *“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,”*

This is one of many scriptures where Jesus Christ [Saviour] is also our Lord [Master].

We **cannot** separate the two offices.

We **cannot** accept Jesus as our saving sacrifice today but withhold our decision as to His Lordship until later.

We may leave it until it is too late.

The attachment to Jesus Christ is all-exclusive, He will not tolerate any rival interests.

We are to orbit around Jesus Christ as the Earth does the Sun, held enthralled by the magnetism of His Love, drawing all our life, light [enlightenment] and warmth from Him.

This is making a leap of faith into God through the person and work of Christ, **never** dividing the work from the person.

1 John 4:17 [NIV] *“In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him [Jesus Christ].”*

In this life we are to be so close to the person of Jesus Christ that we reflect Him in every way, **not** perfectly but just as the Moon reflects the light of the Sun, same light but **not** as brilliant.

John 15:1-8 [NIV] *“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. **He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit**, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. **Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.** “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. **This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.**”*

We all are to become branches that are grafted into the main vine root stock so that Jesus Christ’s power and love can flow through us and produce fruits [more disciples for Christ] through us.

This is the end goal of our relationship with our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ.