

NOT MADE WITH HANDS

I am sure that you have often thought about what it is going to be like in eternity, and how wonderful it will be for us. Well, it took the “love of God” on our behalf to make the joys of eternity a reality for us. We have a new house awaiting us in heaven and it is not made with man’s hands. Our new house, our body, will not perish or be corrupt. We are a “new creature” in Christ now. **II Corinthians 5:1** *For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*

The Lord had to strip himself of his glory in heaven with God the Father, take on human flesh, and then offer himself a sacrifice to pay for our sins. The Godhead-- God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit-- knowing that man would fall into sin, planned out the scriptures for our salvation before the world began. They had a council meeting (Psalm 119:89; Daniel 10:21). **Romans 5:8** *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

Not only does God provide us with the free gift of our salvation the moment we believe the truth of the gospel, but the Lord wants us to appropriate all the blessings that can be ours in Christ now and for eternity future. The appropriation of these blessings comes through obtaining knowledge. **Colossians 2:3** *In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.* See **Ephesians 1:3**.

God has a job for us to do. He wants us to work out our own salvation; be separate from the world; and be sanctified for His service. He wants us to obtain our salvation with that “eternal glory.” We have an inheritance in Christ awaiting. **Ephesians 2:10** *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

We are God’s ambassadors beseeching others to be reconciled to God just like we have been. **II Corinthians 5:18** *And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;*
19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

*20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.
21 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.*

God would have all men to be saved and then come unto the knowledge of the truth (**I Timothy 2:4**). Upon believing the truth of the gospel, God wants us to grow up into Christ. He wants us to be that “perfect man” understanding what God is doing “now;” what he has done in “time past;” and what his plans are for “eternity future.” Full-grown sons is what God is looking for in us. Our apostle Paul pressed toward the mark for the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded (**Philippians 3**).