

BRYAN STATION BAPTIST CHURCH

THE PIONEER BAPTIST

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"Preaching the same truth since before Kentucky was a state"

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First Adam - Last Adam

By: C. D. Cole

The two men through whom God deals with all men-- *"And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam a quickening spirit...The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven,"* I Corinthians 15:45, 47. *"For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous,"* Romans 5:19.

Introduction: The text before us is easy to understand, but it is so contrary to human nature and human opinion that it is hard to believe. It speaks of two men and the result of their careers on this earth. One of them so acted as to ruin his race; the other as to redeem His race.

God deals with all men through these two men, and our state before God depends upon which of these two men we are now related to.

The Bible speaks of the first man and the second man but nowhere of a third. This second man is also called the last Adam or the last man. There is to be no other man through whom God will deal with us. This last man is the one and only mediator between God and men.

How we got to be sinners.

1. The fact that I am a sinner.

2. I became a sinner through disobedience of another person.

3. This person was the first man. Our immediate parents did not make us sinners; they were but the channel through which guilt and corruption were brought to me.

4. The first man was a public or representative person. He was acting for the race in the garden. The first Adam was appointed a living soul, that is he had in him the blood of all mankind; he had the power to propagate. God breathed in his nostrils the breath of lives. *"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul,"* Genesis 2:7.

5. Sin is twofold - it consists of guilt and corruption. Guilt is our position before the law of God; corruption is our state of being - our nature as a sinner. And both of these conditions came from the first Adam. Adam is both the natural and the federal head of the race. By virtue of his natural headship I have a sinful nature, for like begets like. By virtue of his federal headship I am guilty before God. Our text has to do with guilt - many were made (constituted) sinners, not sinful. And sinners is in apposition to righteousness, and righteousness is the antonym of unrighteousness or guilt.

6. Right here let me dispose of

the baby or infant question. Are we to conclude that infants who die go to hell? No, no. People do not go to hell because of Adam's sin; they go to hell because of their personal transgression. Babies were constituted sinners because of Adam's disobedience and they are constituted righteous because of Christ's obedience. Now if you leave Christ out of the picture, babies would go to hell because they would be unrighteous or sinners. I believe that every being who gets to heaven will get there through Christ; every human being in heaven will be a sinner saved by Christ and will be able to join in the song of redemption.

How we get to be righteous.

1. Righteousness is the result of obedience. I am righteous before law so long as I obey the law. But the moment I disobey I become unrighteous. Now the race was constituted in Adam and so long as he obeyed the race was righteous. When he disobeyed the race became a race of sinners. So I am a sinner because of his disobedience. And I am a sinner because of my personal disobedience. To show my kinship to Adam, just as soon as I learned in my conscience the difference between right and wrong, I began to do the wrong. I sinned in Adam and I sinned in my own right.

2. Now to become righteous there must be obedience to the law of God; perfect not partial; permanent not temporary; continuous not spasmodic. *"For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them,"* Galatians 3:10.

3. The righteousness we must have is the result of Christ's obedience. Just as the first man's obedience constituted us sinners; so Christ's obedience constituted us righteous. What a comfort to poor weak sinners. *"But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption,"* I Corinthians 1:30. *"But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference,"* Romans 3:21, 22. *"For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth,"* Romans 10:4.

4. Christ was a public person. He had no interests of His own in the way of moral obligations. He was God the lawgiver and not subject to any law save that of his own nature. So when he came to this earth he came to represent sinners, and all that He did was done for sinners. He lived a righteous life that sinners might have righteousness. He died to pay the sin bill of sinners.

What must I do personally to become righteous.

The answer is obvious in the light of what has been said. If righteousness is the result of Christ's obedience then to become righteous I must trust Him. And this is exactly what the Scripture tells us to do. *"And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house,"* Acts 16:31. *And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be*

justified by the law of Moses," Acts 13:39. *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him*

should not perish, but have everlasting life," John 3:16.

FATHER AND SON NIGHT

By: C. D. Cole

Introduction: The crying need of the times is good fathers. Not fathers who will toil night and day to amass wealth for their children, but fathers who will give themselves to their growing sons. Was it not Shakespeare who said, "A wise father knoweth his son." And a greater than Shakespeare said, "A wise son maketh a glad father."

There are two essential elements in the character of a good father: authority and affection. The father who knows how to exercise parental authority and fatherly affection is a good father.

Authority finds expression in discipline. And discipline must not be executed in cruelty but in firmness. *"Ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord,"* Ephesians 6:4. The father who loses his grip on his son will soon find that the son has strong grip on him. Abraham is the model father of Bible characters, and the Lord said of him, *"For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment,"* Genesis 18:19. A father who makes discipline either a farce or a cruelty ruins his work.

Affection must be shown in comradeship. Someone else may teach the boy his multiplication table, but the Christian father must teach him how to spin his top and fly his kite. Let somebody else, if need be, teach him algebra and Latin, but the Christian father must teach him how to bait his hook and build a fire. Some outsider may teach him the Greek alphabet, but the Christian father must teach him how to pitch a ball or vault a pole. There are others who can teach him history and geography, but the Christian father must teach him the Scriptures. You may send him to the day school by bus or car, but the Christian father must take him to Sunday School, and sit with him while God's man is preaching the gospel.

A Sunday School teacher once asked a boy in her class if his father were a Christian; without the least hesitation, he replied, "Yes ma'am, but he does not work at it very much." A young man, being expostulated with because of his wildness, was asked if his father, who was a prominent preacher, had not taught him better. He replied with scorn, "I never knew my father. He was too busy writing sermons to give any time to me."

God pity the home where the father is too busy in the vineyard of others to look after his own vineyard.

There is no finer judge of character than a child. The child knows iron from velvet, and gall from honey.

GOD'S WORD TO THE SAVED

—Selected verses from the Bible

Jesus paid the full penalty for you:

"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed," I Peter 2:24. *"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures,"* I Corinthians 15:3.

His righteousness now is placed to your credit:

"But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption," I Corinthians 1:30. *"For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth,"* Romans 10:4.

Confess Him as your Saviour and Lord:

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved," Romans 10:9. *"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven,"* Matthew 10:32.

Follow Jesus in baptism:

"And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan," Mark 1:9. *"Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead,"* Colossians 2:12. *"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life,"* Romans 6:4.

Worship with His people:

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching," Hebrews 10:25. *"Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you,"* John 20:19. *"And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight,"* Acts 20:7. *"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,"* Revelation 1:10.

Contribute as God prospers:

"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come," I Corinthians 16:2. *"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings,"* Malachi 3:8. *"Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also,"* II Corinthians 8:7.

Study the Bible daily:

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction, in righteousness," II Timothy 3:16. *"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so,"* Acts 17:11. *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God,*

a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth," II Timothy 2:15.

Confess to God every sin:

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness," I John 1:9. *"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon,"* Isaiah 55:7. *"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise,"* Psalm 51:17.

In case of doubt, take safe place:

"And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin," Romans 14:23. *"All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any,"* I Corinthians 6:12. *"But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ,"* I Corinthians 8:12. *"All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not,"* I Corinthians 10:23. *"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God,"* I Corinthians 10:31.

Practice the presence of Christ:

"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee," Hebrews 13:5. *"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world,"* Matthew 28:20. *"For where two or three are gathered*

together in my name, there am I in the midst of them," Matthew 18:20.

Work for Him as the way opens:

"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves," James 1:22. "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven," Matthew 7:21.

Seek to win others to Jesus:

"Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you," John 20:21. "And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men," Matthew 4:19. "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost," Luke 19:10.

**Press onward,
outward, upward:**

"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus," Philippians 3:14. "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing," II Timothy 4:8.