

## Made Unto Us

Happy Sabbath to everyone.

Tonight we have a relatively simple study, but one that I believe is powerful in its applicability to the recently emphasized concepts of unity and brotherhood, and to practical sanctification for the Church and its members.

The topic for tonight is called “Made Unto Us,” and the wording is drawn from this verse: “But of Him are ye in Christ Yahshua, who of Yahweh is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.” (1Cor 1:30)

In fact, let me give the full context by citing the entire passage, for it is all relevant:

“For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But Yah hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty, and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath Yahweh chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are, that no flesh should glory in his presence.

“But of Him are ye in Christ Yahshua, who of Yahweh is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption, that, according as it is written, ‘He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.’” (1Cor 1:26-31)

The setting here is Paul writing to the Corinthians, dealing with a number of problems, such as pride, divisiveness, and contentions in the congregation. He does this, not by rebuking them only, but by reminding them of the glorious nature of their calling. He teaches that the strength of the Gospel is not in the number of messengers, but in the power of the message, to turn the hearts of mankind back to the Creator, and to bind them together in unity.

In a sense, this first chapter of 1 Corinthians deals with many of the same themes as those that are found in John 17, for it is in this chapter that Paul writes, “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Yahshua the Messiah, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” (1 Cor 1:10)

We have quoted that verse a number of times in our own studies regarding unity, baptism, and doctrinal harmony. We have used it to demonstrate the fatal flaw, the pride, at the core of ministries that attempt to operate independently of the Church and its leading Third Angel in open contradiction of the Word and Yah’s more recent messengers.

Thus, for the CSDA movement, this is a particularly impressive chapter. It goes from that plea for unity, our plea for unity, right into dealing with the very issues that have caused some to turn away from the ark – because of the perceived weakness and small number of its passengers.

It is the small things that Yah loves. He chose the Israelites because they were the least impressive people on the earth. He chose prophets and teachers from among the shepherds, the farmers, and the dwellers in the wilderness. He chose young men to baffle the rabbis, and lowly monks to resist the power and wealth of long years of tradition during the Reformation. This is our Father's way, and Paul explains why – so that none may say, "They overcame their enemies because of their own strength and influence."

When the Church of Yahweh overcomes its enemies, it is not because of the merits of its members. It is because of "the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death." (Rev 12:11)

None of those three things have their strength in the individual member. The blood of the Lamb is the mercy and sacrifice of Yahshua. The Word of our testimony is OF our Savior, because we do not testify that we have saved ourselves, or that it is by our willpower that we resist temptation. Similarly, the willingness to sacrifice even our own lives for the brethren and mankind is contrary to the inclination of the flesh, which seeks its own best good. The ability to sacrifice is itself a blessing, a gift from the Most High, and therefore can be possessed, and exercised, by the least as easily as the greatest.

In other words, all that we are, whether we are many or few, large or small, comes from the Father through the Son. As Paul continues to say, expanding the thought above, the Messiah is "made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption."

These four things, made unto us in Yahshua, which identify us as belonging to the Father, are well-chosen by the inspired writer, and so I'd like to touch briefly on each:

#### 1) Wisdom

Yahshua is made unto us Wisdom. Let none say, "I am not wise." James says, "Ye have not, because ye ask not," (James 4:2) and, "if any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of Yah that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." (James 1:5)

If anyone says, "I am not wise enough to understand what Yah wants from me," or, "I am not able to do this," we have our answer from James, and we have our answer in Yahshua, who is the Provider of the answer to this prayer.

#### 2) Righteousness

As every Creation Seventh Day Adventist knows, and as every Adventist should know, "In His days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely, and this is His name whereby He shall be

called, ‘YAHWEH OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.’” (Jer 23:6) This is, of course, speaking of Yahshua fulfilling the righteousness of the Father. But remember our previous studies. Yahshua takes the unique glory of the Father, and shares it with us. Yahshua takes His unity with the Father, and gives it to us.

He says, “Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his Lord doeth, but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.” (John 15:15) We overcome the way that Yahshua overcame, because just as He received all that was necessary for His success from the Father, denying Himself and relying ONLY on the Father’s strength, so we may do the same. We have all that Yahshua had, of key importance His faith, so that we may also manifest the very righteousness that He received from the Father. And this we surely do, as we are His.

### 3) Sanctification

Yahshua is our sanctification. Yahshua’s perfection of character is both our goal, and our means of attaining unto that goal. Yahshua is our encouragement, our protection, and our reproof if we err in judgment. Yahshua’s character is the standard of our maturity, and His words give us the power to fulfill the will of Yahweh in our lives. When He tells us, “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in Heaven is perfect,” (Mat 5:48) we know that He is not speaking about perfection of strength, or of knowledge... It is perfection of personality; and in fact, this is not a new teaching at all. The Books of Moses, the very first, tell us, “Thou shalt be perfect with Yahweh thy Elohim.” (Deu 18:13) We read, “Let your heart therefore be perfect with Yahweh our Almighty, to walk in His statutes, and to keep His commandments, as at this day.” (1 Kings 8:61)

Shall we be surprised by the Savior’s instruction? We have been called to this standard from the very beginning of the religion of Yahweh upon the earth. Victory over sin, righteousness by faith, sanctification through Yahshua, these are the very foundations of our Christian experience, and are of no recent invention.

### 4) Redemption

Yahshua is our redemption. We know this, because we call Him Savior, and all the world knows about the cross at which He gave His very life for our sake. (Col 1:20, 2:14) But Yahshua was not redemption for us at that moment alone. He was “made unto us” redemption, and our redemption He remains now and forever.

Where is Yahshua right now? Any Adventist would say, “In the Sanctuary, pleading for His people.” (cf. Heb 7:29) Why? Why is He taking the time, and making the effort, on my behalf? It is because of this... and it may be a new thought to you: Yahshua believes that I am saved.

My Savior believes that I am saved, and will be with Him in glory; it is for this purpose that He works, and for this promise that I respond in love. So it shall be for all who are born of the Spirit. Consider this in faith, and with everlasting thanksgiving.

Now, having seen these four things, I would like for us to take a wide view of Paul's meaning in 1Corinthians' first chapter. He is talking about unity. Think on this, and come to see how this first chapter supports what we have been taking about in our studies for the past few weeks. Because we are few, and because our strength is all from Yahshua, we as individuals must rely upon one-another to do the work of Heaven.

Because we are yet seeking perfection of character, we depend on one another, the Spirit of Yahshua through one another, for advice, encouragement, and protection. This cannot be accomplished by mere agreement. This cannot be accomplished by mere association. It cannot be accomplished by fellowship and casual acquaintance.

The goal of Paul's writing, that "there be no divisions among [us]; but that [we] be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" can ONLY be accomplished by a Faithful Brotherhood, through a Sure Covenant. Thus, I will say that in addition to being our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and our redemption, Yahshua is also our unity.

Can it be otherwise? Unity was Paul's goal, as much as it was Yahshua's. As much as it still is. Yahshua takes His "one-ness" with the Father, and gives us Their "one-ness" so that we may be One with Them, and One with another. (John 17:22) It is Yahshua that gives us Unity; therefore, He is made unto us this Spirit of Brotherhood, every bit as much as the Spirit of Holiness and the Spirit of Truth.

Now, let us be careful here. I say that Yahshua is our unity, but this does not mean that all who say to Him, "Lord Lord," are in unity, any more than all who say, "Lord, Lord" will be saved. Not all who say, "I am with you in spirit" are with us in spirit and in truth (or even in spirit at all). Not all who say, "Yahshua is my personal Savior" is in unity with us, because this phrase means different things to different people.

Paul's burden was that the brethren should all be "one." That is our burden today, but we cannot accomplish this with compromise, only with truth. We cannot settle for unity in word only, without unity in fact, in labor, in rejoicing, in Covenant. Only the truth as it is Yahshua, that is, the objective truth that Heaven Itself witnesses as "truth," can be the basis for Christian unity.

This is beyond mere doctrine, but it is about a faith that "works" and that works not only on individuals, to kill sin in the heart, but also works in the world through the Church, to accomplish the aims of the Gospel. Most of us, in preparation for last New Moon's meeting, read Ellen White's "Letter 55," which speaks of the conditions of a Church's growth, and the responsibility of each individual member. If we are not moving forward, bringing the Gospel to the lost and dying, we are not living the Faith of Yahshua. If we sit around and congratulate ourselves on

having “found the truth,” then we are nothing but that unfaithful servant who buried his Master’s coin in the earth until the day of His return. (Mat 25:14 - 30)

That parable is applied to talents and gifts, of course... but what greater gift have we received than the Faith of Yahshua? What greater talent have we obtained than the ability to share the Gospel with a needful ear and heart? Brethren, those of the Faithful Brotherhood, and the Sure Covenant... Yah forbid that we should be found to have buried this coin in the earth.

Do we have wisdom? Do we have righteousness? Have we sanctification and redemption? If we have Yahshua at all, then we must also have these things that He is become for our sakes. And do we have unity? All who are truly Christ’s, in whom He abides, and whom He keeps ever from falling into sin... that is, all who are truly converted to the resurrected life, they have unity in Christ. They are one with Him, and one with one another. They are united in aim, in purpose, and under the banner of the Savior that MUST be visible on earth as it is in Heaven, or it is no true banner at all... no true rallying-point for the saints who are yet on the earth.

If we are Creation Seventh Day Adventists, then this banner must be held high upon the earth. It must be lifted up, not to bring glory to itself, but to bring glory to the One who gave us a message to bear, a burden for the lost and dying. It must be lifted up in honor, and in dishonor through controversy... but better in honor by those who love it.

Let us commit to spreading the Gospel message to the world in love, in power, and in unity. Let us not go ahead of, or fall behind, the Third Angel in anything, but...

Let us accept all that Yahshua has given to us: Himself, made unto us all those things that we need to perfectly accomplish the work of a perfect Will and Character. Let us be worthy of the Faith of Yahshua, for here is another way of considering that phrase: the Faith of Yahshua involves faith in Yahshua. This is its most common meaning. We have now taught that it is also the faith that Yahshua HAS... but there is a third meaning as well, or another way of thinking about the second. Yahshua ministers on our behalf, first on earth and now in the Sanctuary, because He does not believe His labors are in vain. It is His faith that His sacrifice and labor for us is effectual. As I said above, Yahshua believes that His People are saved. He knows that He is returning for a redeemed Nation. Yahshua believes that YOU are saved. It is the faith of Yahshua, it is the belief of Yahshua, that we shall attain unto His perfect character and share eternal glories with Him and His Father. Those He invites, but that have not yet fully accepted Him, He nevertheless claims them in faith... through our word, through our actions toward them in love. Let us trust the faith of Yahshua, believe what He believes, and see the miracle that He has prayed for come to pass: that we shall all be ONE, even as He and His Father are One, and that we shall shortly receive the inheritance prepared for us, because Yahshua believes that we shall receive it. Let His perfect faith be our salvation.

And until that is made manifest, let us be brothers on earth as we shall be in Heaven, helping, supporting, and blessing one another, and inviting others to be Family with us in our work, our rest, and our rejoicing.

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