

## JCI #150 The Gospel in Prepositions July 2014

Back in 2006 I was on a plane getting ready to go to Germany. An older woman took the seat next to me. She immediately noticed my open Bible and commented... "That's a good thing to do before we fly! I'm really nervous!" I laughed and told her I read it every day, flying or not. She said that was quite unusual, to which I readily agreed. She then told me she was a school teacher and administrator and often taught religion classes. "Oh really," I replied. "Well then, do you want the whole story in prepositions?" She eagerly affirmed the idea, and so I said. "We were made *by* God; we were made *like* God; we were made *for* God; but we ran *from* God; but were sought *by* God, to be restored *to* God, so we could live *with* God face *to* face forever." She asked me to repeat it (slowly) so she could write it down. That led into a delightful 90 minutes of filling in the details.

We were made **by** God **CREATED AND ACCOUNTABLE** The Bible everywhere affirms that we were created by God Himself and are therefore accountable to Him. God alone is the Creator and Judge of all men. Genesis 1:26-31 Acts 17:24-31 Hebrews 4:13 Jeremiah 17:10

We were made **like** God **IMAGE OF GOD** The Bible clearly says we were made in God's image which includes a spiritual, everlasting existence. We are both material and immaterial, body and spirit, able to know and respond to Him in a unique and special way. Because we are made in God's image, we will never cease to exist.

Genesis 1:26-31 Genesis 2:7-25 Psalm 8 Acts 17:24-31

We were made **for** God **MADE FOR A RELATIONSHIP** We were made to know and respond to God in a personal relationship. This is why we exist. We do not exist for ourselves, but for God's glory and pleasure. We were created to oversee His created world, enjoy His blessings and fellowship, and live in His presence forever. Genesis 1:26-2:25 John 17:3 John 17:24

But we ran **from** God **SIN AND SEPARATION** The Bible declares the reality of our sinful rebellion against God and the death sentence we all inherit and deserve. Our personal sin brings us under the judgment of God. We deserve God's wrath and live under His just condemnation. We are unable to remedy our guilt and sin by ourselves. Genesis 3:1-24 Romans 5:12 Psalm 51:5 Romans 3:23 Romans 6:23 John 3:18 John 3:36 Hebrews 9:27

But are sought **by** God **JESUS CHRIST** Though we turned our backs on God in our sin, God did not turn His back on us. All the way from the Garden of Eden to the cross, from heaven to earth, from glory to the grave, God has sought us. God came after us to rescue us from His wrath. The Father sent His only Son, the sinless One, Jesus Christ, to live a sinless life for us and lay it down as the sin-offering we all needed. Jesus took our sin and paid the price completely in

our place so we could be forgiven, cleansed and reconciled. Genesis 3:9-15 | John 4:14 | 1 John 2:1-2 | Luke 19:10

To be restored **to** God **RESTORATION** The Bible in a single word is “*restoration*.” We brought about *separation* by our sin. God brings about *restoration* by His Son’s death for sin and resurrection. Jesus’ name, “Lamb of God”, is testimony to His sacrificial role as our atoning sin-offering. The word “lamb” is found 33 times in the New Testament and all but one refer to Jesus Christ. His sacrifice brings restoration of man to God by satisfying God’s just wrath against our sin that was imputed to Christ, while crediting the righteousness of Christ to the one who believes in Him. 2 Cor 5:21 | Isa 53:6 | John 1:29 | 1 Peter 1:18-19 | Romans 5:1-21

So we could live **with** God face to face forever **SALVATION** The ultimate purpose of our original creation was to live in face to face fellowship with our Creator. God accomplished this for us through His Son. When we repent of our sins and place our trust in Jesus Christ as Savior, we are guaranteed eternal life in face to face fellowship with God forever. 1 John 5:11-13 | Rev 22:1-5 | Rev 21:1-8 | Rev 14:1-4

### Self-Check

- 1) Have you understood the simple gospel message in prepositions?
- 2) Have you acknowledged to God your need of Jesus Christ as your personal Savior?
- 3) Have you placed your faith in Jesus Christ to save you from your sins? Do it today!

### For Further Study

Read the entire fifth chapter of Romans and make a chart showing Adam, you, and Jesus and how God remedied the problem of sin so you could be saved.

*“O God of Creation, we have ruined Your perfect world and severed that perfect relationship mankind had with You in the beginning. O Holy God, we deserve Your wrath and everlasting judgment because of our sin. O Pursuing God, You sent Your Son to seek and save us by the sacrifice of Himself on the cross. O Risen God, You conquered the grave for us so we could be raised in life with You forever. O Restoring God, You will make all things new, put all things right, restore all that we ruined by Your own power and might. We worship You, in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.”*

**Remember, you are very special to us and we pray for you.**

**Living with leaving in view.... Jn 9:4**

**Ron & Val**

Seeing The Invisible, embracing The Unapproachable, declaring The Unexplainable,  
changed by The Immutable, running after The Irresistible

with inexhaustible joy in our inexpressible sorrows,  
spending our time on eternity,  
owning nothing yet possessing everything  
that matters and lasts.  
We are Pilgrims in Paradox.  
Welcome to THE JOURNEY