BECOMING RIGHTEOUS, part 2 quotes

1) How did Christ come into the world to save us sinners?

He was born through the linage of Abraham and David to a human mother named Mary, and the God of heaven was His Father (see Luke 1:31-35; Romans 1:3). Jesus also partook of all the same passions and infirmities common to fallen humanity (see Hebrews 2:14-18, 4:15). So quite amazingly, Jesus — our Creator — lowered Himself to become one of His creation, in order to save us.

2) How did Jesus live while on this earth in order to save us sinners?

Jesus Christ never once gave in to the natural passions or infirmities of His human nature, but overcame all the evils that are common to this world, and never once committed sin (Matthew 16:33; John 8:46; Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 1:19; John 8:28-29). He did always those things that pleased God, and thus He could say in truth that those who had seen Him, had actually seen the character of God the Father being manifested (John 8:20, 28-29, 14:9).

- 3) How would Christ try and save us sinners?
- "...I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Matthew 9:13.
- 4) Since we have already sinned, then how would repentance from our sins save us from the penalty of death?

"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. This he said, signifying what death he should die." John 12:32-33.

"...he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all....He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? For he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth...thou shall make his soul an offering for sin....He shall see the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities." Isaiah 53:5-11.

"...and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21.

"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." John 8:36.

Jesus would draw all men and women unto Himself by bearing our sins and iniquities, offering up and sacrificing His life by dying on the cross, thus suffering our punishment. Jesus then was resurrected from the grave and ascended to heaven (Matthew 28:1-7; Acts 1:1-11) so that He could then offer His spilt blood to atone for and wash away our sins (Matthew 26:28; Colossians 1:14; Psalms 51:2-3, 7; Revelation 1:5), and then offer His sinless righteous life as a covering for our past sinful unrighteous life!

5) If no one would have sinned, then Christ would not have needed to die to pay the penalty for their sins. So then you and I are also guilty of killing Christ! We are guilty of killing the One who gave us life, and we really gave Christ the nail prints in His hands and caused Him to suffer all that He did!

"And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends." Zechariah 13:6.

Since Christ already knew what we were going to do to Him, then why would our Creator choose to voluntarily come down to this dark world to save us murderers?

"...Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour." Ephesians 5:2.

"As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you...Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." John 15:9.

"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God..." 1 Peter 3:18.

6) We cannot see or touch this gift of righteousness, because it is placed on our account or imputed unto us. Then how do we know that it is a real gift? We must believe that we have received it and are made as if we have never sinned! And then we must also believe that the Father accepts us in His Son's righteousness! This takes faith! The Bible calls this process Justification by Faith (Romans 3:28, 5:1; Galatians 2:16, 3:24) and Righteousness by Faith (see Romans 3:22, 9:30, 10:6; Galatians 5:5; Philippians 3:9; Hebrews 11:7).

- 7) "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." Isaiah 59:1-2.
- 8) God is not just waiting to execute all who have chosen to sin. But He is intensely earnest that all should accept His Son and be saved under His robe of righteousness.

"O thou son of man, speak unto the house of Israel; Thus ye speak, saying, If our transgressions and our sins be upon us, and we pine away in them, how should we then live? Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from you evil ways; for why will ye die?..." Ezekiel 33:11.

9) God the Father developed this glorious and amazing plan of salvation in order to bring us back together again!

"Many, O Lord my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered. Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire...burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required. Then said I (Jesus Christ), Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me, I delight to do thy will, O my God..." Psalms 40:5-8 (see also Hebrews 10:4-9).

"...God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him." 1 John 4:9.

10) God is so earnest and actively involved in the plan of our salvation, that when one sinner finally decides to repent of their sins, and accept the free gift of justification and righteousness, God lifts up His melodious voice and sings for joy!

"I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." Luke 15:7.

"The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty, he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy. He will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing." Zephaniah 3:17.

11) How much does God the Father love you?

"The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee." Jeremiah 31:3.

"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.

"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation (or atonement) for our sins." 1 John 4:10.

"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love towards us, in that, while we were yet sinners Christ died for us....For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life." Romans 5:6-10.

"Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God." 1 John 3:1.