The Great Exchange

> Jesus said: ***"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. [28] And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand"*** (John 10:27, 28).

Our first step in this 'sojourn to remember' is: hearing His voice. Once we **make contact** with the Voice of Truth, the rest of God's plan for you will fall into proper alignment. The problem on earth is this: there are a multitude of voices competing for our attention and affection, and a multitude of agendas as well. In order to discover the true reality grounded in spiritual truth, you must get still and earnestly desire to hear the Lord's voice, but herein is another problem: God does not get louder… you must get quiet and still if you want to hear His voice.

If you cannot hear the Lord's voice, then you are not one of His sheep. If you claim to be one of His followers but you cannot hear His voice, then you neither know Him nor have you been born anew either. Hearing God's voice with the purpose to understand His messages – is what the kingdom of heaven is all about. And furthermore – Jesus is the Message and the Messenger. Hearing the Voice – to understand the message – results in obedience. If you have no intention to obey the Voice of Jesus, then you shouldn't plan to hear anything. Obedience simply means: to listen intelligently… and do it. Pretending to believe produces one thing: make-believers.

"Be still, and know that I *am* God" (Psa. 46:10).

If you want to know God's purpose and plan for your life, then you must get quiet and listen. Stillness in silence is the moment when you yearn to hear the small, still voice of Jesus. Be still… and you will know God.

What is the meaning of life? You just read it! The true meaning of life is to live the true meaning of love. You were created as a gateway of love – to love God and love one another. Yet we are surrounded by a multitude of opinions and voices that contradict the language of love and we have many thoughts that are insistent with the Gospel of Love. Here is some good advice by an extremely intelligent man:

"***I want to know the thoughts of God – all the rest are details***." – Albert Einstein

We need to listen to His voice and know God's thoughts. The second step in this process is to be born anew from above. You were born into this world through water into the paradigm (operating system) of sin. You were born under grace and without sin, but it only takes a couple years before you begin to understand something is horribly awry on this planet, you take matters into your own hands and then you act independently of God and of parents and the good moral code written on your heart – to trip over the threshold of sin. Hello… welcome to planet earth!

In order to escape this corrupt and evil world, you must be birthed a second time, but this time – by the Spirit – into the paradigm of Christ's grace! Jesus said: "You MUST be born anew!" If

you ever hope to escape the tyranny of this world and the operating system of sin, you must be born anew. How does this happen, you ask? It happens by completely surrendering your sovereignty under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. You get off the throne in your heart and exalt Jesus upon it. You can't share it with Him, as only one person can be Lord of your life. God is not your co-pilot. God is the pilot and you are riding in His plane, so move over and operate in obedience through submission. The interesting thing about Jesus is: He never asks us if we want to be saved and born again… it is not an invitation! He commands it! Yet free will allow us to reject this command.

The agonizing struggle to enter Paradise is much like a contest wherein many compete, but few win the prize. Many are called (invited into the Lord's covenant) but few are chosen (given entrance based upon the robe of righteousness). Yet we have a Paraclete, the Holy Spirit, who is dwelling alongside of us to help us on this sojourn to gain entrance, who Himself is the Gatekeeper (θυρωρὸς *thuroros*-G2377; porter KJV) who guards the entrance (θύρας *thura*) to the Door (*Thura*-Jesus Christ; John 10:3)… but few are willing to yield to the Holy Spirit's guidance and transformational renewing of their mind to manifest "Christ in you" on the earth.

Agony now or torment forever – the choice is yours. Either we agonize through faith in this life, being steadfast in truth to faithfully endure even in the midst of much adversity, or we shall experience torment in outer darkness for all eternity with much weeping and gnashing of teeth.

The problem with man is: he has been behind enemy lines for so long, that he has forgotten who he is, what he is, what he is supposed to be doing… and what he is fighting for. Beloved, you are fighting to redeem and take back what was stolen from you before the war in heaven spilled over onto earth. You had a prior state of existence before you were inserted into the fabric of time – and you were "in Christ before the foundation of this world" (Eph. 1:4).

The transformation of man is simply: becoming again what we were in the beginning.

Regeneration '*palingenesia*-G3824' literally means: genesis again! We are going back to the beginning… back to the Garden of Eden.

Is Jesus your redeemer and your redemption? Are you His beloved? Now that you know Who will be waiting for you on the other side, do you have any idea where you may be going if you died this very moment? And what would you *exchange* ***right now*** in this life to possess heavenly currency (righteousness through faith) and life eternal with Jesus in the hereafter?

> "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. [26] For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? ***Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul***? [27] For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works" (Matt. 16:25-27).

The word "exchange" is '*antallagma*' (G465) and means "an equivalent or *ransom*; exchange" that constitutes "the price at which the exchange is effected." Jesus only used this term once, in regard to our soul, and we need to perceive this term used as the second part of the exchange that

occurs in Hades – which Christ instituted by His initial ransom by His sacrificial death so that we may escape Death. So, what are you willing to exchange with Jesus for the betterment of your soul?

What are you storing up that you will you be able to give Jesus in *exchange* for your soul?" Will sin be a noose around your neck or will righteousness be a garland around your soul?

On account of God's great mercy, Jesus created a way of escape out of Death by grace through faith, but this way only escapes Death; the only way that you may escape from being cast from Hades into Outer Darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth before everything in Hades is cast into the lake of fire – is by paying your ransom *in righteousness currency* to save your soul. What will you be able to give Jesus in *exchange* for your soul?"

The person that sets the prisoner free… is yourself… according to the righteousness of faith.