

THINKING AHEAD

- Jesus wanted the entire world to know that we are all on big potentially happy, but currently dysfunctional family.
- Up to this night and beyond, everything Jesus did was for our benefit.
- He wanted us to know the truth about ourselves and our relationship to God.
- He wanted to correct the grave misconceptions about the nature of God - that He is not just a powerful potentate, but He is our own heavenly Father.
- Jesus wanted to elevate our personal dignity, as not mere servants of God, but as His sons who bear His image and encapsulate His spirit – the incorruptible seed of the Father - Genesis 1:27; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 1 Peter 1:23.
- He commanded his disciples to take the message of the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man to the most distant parts of the earth – to every nation, and tribe and peoples and tongues - Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8
- Christ Jesus was not just a prophet or a wise man or a progenitor of one religion.
- He has a divine relationship with all mankind – Jew, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Sikh, the various tribal and aboriginal people, even atheists and agnostics.



- our humiliated body to be conformed to his glorious body according to the operation of the power that he has, even to subject all things to himself.” – Philippians 3:20-21
- “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in union with Christ, just as he chose us in union with him before the founding of the world, that we should be holy and without blemish before him in love. For he foreordained us to the adoption through Jesus Christ as sons to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.” – Ephesians 1:3-5

By the First Father's will, all mankind owes their existence and survival potential to and through Christ Jesus



- “Stop storing up for yourselves treasures upon the earth, where moth and rust consume, and where thieves break in and steal. Rather, store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” – Matthew 6:19-21
- “I am pursuing down toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God by means of Christ Jesus. Let us, then, as many of us as are mature, be of this mental attitude; and if you are mentally inclined otherwise in any respect, God will reveal the above [attitude] to you.” – Philippians 3:14-15
- “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for according to his great mercy he gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an incorruptible and undefiled and unfading inheritance. It is reserved in the heavens for you, who are being safeguarded by God's power through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed

We can lead other faith-nations to honor and recognize their Creator, and to continue in their worship of the true God, the First Father of ALL. Our commission is not to make them all 'Christians,' but to show them how to be 'Christ-like' in their dealings with one another.

- These scriptures clarify the one hope for all faithful mankind and showing how the Christian Bible writers all directed mankind to the heavenly hope as sons and daughters of God:
- “I continue mentioning you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the accurate knowledge of him; the eyes of your heart having been enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he called you, what the glorious riches are which he holds as an inheritance for the holy ones, and what the surpassing greatness of his power is toward us believers.” – Ephesians 1:16-19
- “As for us, our citizenship exists in the heavens, from which place also we are eagerly waiting for a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will refashion

in the last period of time.” – 1 Peter 1:3-5

- “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Exercise faith in God, exercise faith also in me. In the house of my Father there are many abodes. Otherwise, I would have told you, because I am going my way to prepare a place for you. Also, if I go my way and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will receive you home to myself, that where I am you also may be. And where I am going you know the way.” – John 14:1-4
- Even in the first century, man tried to change the good news that Jesus himself taught, of sonship with God and entry into the heavens, to their own liking, but Paul warned against this:
- “I marvel that you are being so quickly removed from the One who called you with Christ's undeserved kindness over to another sort of good news. But it is not another; only there are certain ones who are causing you trouble and wanting to pervert the good news about the Christ. However, even if we or an angel out of heaven were to declare to you as good news something beyond what we declared to you as good news, let him be accursed. As we have said above, I also now say again, Whoever it is that is declaring to you as good news something beyond what you accepted, let him be accursed.” – Galatians 1:6-9



- The Christian Bible writers emphasized the unity and the oneness of our brotherhood and of the hope we hold in common:
- “But you, do not you be called Rabbi, for one is your teacher, whereas all you are brothers. Moreover, do not call anyone your father on earth, for one is your Father, the heavenly One. Neither be called 'leaders,' for your Leader is one, the Christ.” – Matthew 23:8-10
- “I, therefore, the prisoner in [the] Lord, entreat you

to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called, with complete lowliness of mind and mildness, with long-suffering, putting up with one another in love, earnestly endeavouring to observe the oneness of the spirit in the uniting bond of peace. One body there is, and one spirit, even as you were called in the one hope to which you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all [persons], who is over all and through all and in all.”

– Ephesians 4:1-5

- “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, a man, Christ Jesus.” – 1 Timothy 2:5
- “For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, should be dissolved, we are to have a building from God, a house not made with hands, everlasting in the heavens. For in this dwelling house we do indeed groan, earnestly desiring to put on the one for us from heaven.” – 2 Corinthians 5:1-5
- “If, however, you were raised up with the Christ, go on seeking the things above, where the Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Keep your minds fixed on the things above not on the things upon the earth.” – Colossians 3:1-2

This should be so real that we, too, will willingly give our all to honor our God and his Christ, in the face of any and all opposition by family, friend or foe. The Lord's Evening Meal is an opportunity to stand up for the Christ and prove ourselves worthy of him.

- **NO** Christian Bible writer encouraged the pursuit of an earthly hope. On the contrary, they strongly exhorted the brothers to let go of, and turn away from, the pursuit of things of the flesh, which would include the idea of an eternal earthly hope.



- “Give orders to those who are rich in the present system of things not to be high-minded, and to rest their hope, not on uncertain riches, but on God, who furnishes us all things richly for our enjoyment; to work at good, to be rich in fine works, to be liberal, ready to share, safely treasuring up for themselves a fine foundation for the future, in order that they may get a firm hold on the real life.” – 1 Timothy 6:17-19