



April 2019

Dear CWR/PTM Friends and Partners,

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead... (1 Peter 1:3).

Because of God's great MERCY we are GIVEN new birth and a LIVING HOPE through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our relationship with God has nothing to do with our own efforts—it has everything to do with Jesus Christ. Apart from God, and before we receive and embrace the grace of Jesus Christ, we are dead men and dead women spiritually. **Dead men and women do not resurrect themselves.** Dead men and women are incapable of earning or deserving new life.

Sadly, in many churches within Christendom the gospel gets twisted and corrupted so that “their gospel” is all about a different Jesus whom we read about in the Gospels. They say Jesus came to give us rules and superior knowledge about how to follow those rules. After that, they say, it's up to us. We have to work hard. We have to qualify. We must do all we can and then perhaps God will pick up the slack and do the rest.

That's as far from the gospel as the earth is from the sun (the Son!). Jesus came to reveal, demonstrate and give us the love of God, so that we could receive, by God's “great mercy” the grace of God, something we could never earn and never deserve. This is the gospel, pure and simple!

The resurrection of Jesus is the gospel pure and simple. The resurrection of Jesus demolishes the Christ-less religion that thrives within Christendom—the resurrection demonstrates that our relationship with God is not based on how much we deserve to be resurrected. Religion is all about morality and rules and laws and performance that will presumably earn God's favor. That's what Christ-less religion wants us to believe. On the other hand, Christ-centered faith is all about who God is, about his love and grace—it is all about his great MERCY that GIVES us a LIVING HOPE through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead... (1 Peter 1:3).

- We are spiritually reborn through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- In and through the resurrection of Jesus Christ God breathes new life into you, me and all humans, for apart from Jesus, we are nothing (John 15:5).
- First our “old man” is crucified with Christ (Romans 6:6), and then in Christ we are resurrected to new life, as spiritually transformed new men and women.

Our spiritual rebirth is absolutely connected to and with the resurrection of Jesus Christ. God has “given us new birth” into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...
Our spiritual new birth enables us to be something we never were.

The book of Genesis is a book about “bringing into being”—that’s what *Genesis* means. *The Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being* (Genesis 2:7).

When we are spiritually reborn (*given new birth... through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead*—1 Peter 1:3) we are **regenerated**—we are brought into being spiritually. Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead God breathes spiritual life into us, so that *we become something we had never been*. We are “re-*genesis*-ed” so that divine life energizes us. Having been spiritually reborn we are given eternal, rather than temporary, life.

Jesus told Nicodemus that “*no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again*” (John 3:3). Born again literally means “born from above.” The word Jesus used for “born” is *genno*—the root word of *genesis*—“bringing into being.” We are born again, spiritually...reborn from above...we are, following our spiritual death with Christ, **regenerated** so that we are “brought into being again”—this time our life is spiritual and eternal. The resurrection of Jesus Christ breathes the eternal, spiritual “breath of life” (Genesis 2:7) into our spiritually dead bodies. We are resurrected in and with Jesus Christ!

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them (2 Corinthians 5:17-19).

What does legalistic, performance-based religion tell the hundreds of millions of its followers enslaved to its teachings?

- The old is not gone as long as you keep sinning. You have to quit sinning and be a better person and then, after you prove your sincerity to God, maybe God will punch your ticket for heaven and you can become new...and if God lets you into his heaven it will be because you are a more moral, dedicated follower of the law.
- God will always count your sins against you and the only way you can ever possibly earn and deserve eternal life is to have your good deeds outweigh and outnumber your bad deeds.

Kintsukuroi is a Japanese word that means “golden repair.” *Kintsukuroi* is the art of restoring broken pottery with gold in such a way that the fractures are literally illuminated. The pottery is whole, but the cracks and fault lines where it was once broken can easily be seen. ***Kintsukuroi* proposes that the story of how something or someone came to be damaged can contribute to its beauty and value.** *Kintsukuroi* believes that the true life of an object or a person begins the moment it breaks, and that breach exposes vulnerability, opening the door to a transforming event. When the object or person is restored, the scar of its brokenness adds to its beauty, rather than detracts.

We are all imperfect. We are all broken, *but we have this treasure [of Jesus Christ] in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us* (2 Corinthians 4:7). Anyone or any institution that teaches God will only love us completely when we manage, somehow, against all odds, to become morally perfect in this flesh, is completely missing the point and perverting the gospel. The point is we are all broken—we are all sinners. ***Sin is a condition that is never healed as long as we are in this fleshly body. Sin is never healed but it is forgiven, for those who request and accept it—the old has gone, the new has come!*** (2 Corinthians 5:17).

When Jesus Christ offers us forgiveness, reconciliation and new birth, by the mercy of God, he says “it is time for something completely new.” He isn’t interested in a slight modification or touch

up of what we once were. Before we are spiritually reborn as a result of the resurrection we are crucified with Christ—if we do not surrender the “old man” we do not become new.

In Christ the old covenant becomes the new covenant. The old covenant is dead, obsolete and kaput. The new covenant is the commitment he offers to us. The old covenant which is more like a contract based on law is over, the new covenant which is a commitment of God’s grace to us, has come. **Dead men and women do not resurrect themselves.**

In Christ the old perspectives of the nature of God, and of his wrath and displeasure all based on human obedience or lack thereof are transcended and transformed by the love, mercy and grace of God. In Christ the old has gone and the new has come—in Christ we are given new birth, through his resurrection, and all of this is because God’s favor can never be earned or deserved. **Dead men and women do not resurrect themselves.**

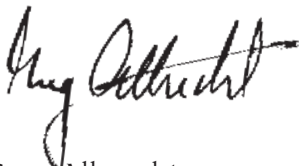
This is why the resurrection of our Lord and Savior is a grand celebration. Easter is the day of ultimate and final victory of good over evil—light over darkness—healing over suffering—life over death and hope over despair!

All is made new! **Everything and everyone is restored, redeemed and reconciled.** All are invited to be regenerated, and all who accept new birth are given new and eternal life.

Easter reminds us that Jesus has won the war, even though “mopping up” operations continue. Everyday battles remain in our lives until our bodies die. We are wounded and we suffer until our bodies die, but we know that we have been given new, eternal life. When our bodies die our eternal life is secure because *Jesus loved us and gave himself for us* (Ephesians 5:2).

This is the gospel, my friends. This is incredible and wonderful good news. Christ has risen! Christ has risen indeed!!! All this is because of him—*all this is from God...* (2 Corinthians 5:18).

Your brother in Christ,



Greg Albrecht

President, Plain Truth Ministries

PS. We share this note of thanks from one of our friends in Michigan.

I am standing with you in prayer and also reflecting on the work that Christ is accomplishing in the life of His people through the efforts of CWR/PTM. God is using you in a mighty way! It is through this ministry that I now understand who Jesus really is. Thank you for all you do!

CWR/PTM Prayer List—April 2019

These requests for prayer represent just a few of the thousands we receive and pray for. We invite you to join us in praying for these and the others that space does not permit us to include here. Thanks for joining with us as a CWR/PTM Prayer Partner.

Please pray for our son who is an alcoholic and seems to be losing his grip on life.—Texas

Please pray that I will lose weight, sleep well at night and that the pain in my body will be relieved.—South Carolina

My husband and I divorced this year. He was unfaithful and I tried for years to keep everything together. I've made a series of bad relationship decisions. I feel like I'm spiraling out of control and I need prayer.—British Columbia, Canada

I have a high heart rate; I'm taking some meds but they don't seem to help. Please pray for me—California

Please keep us in your prayers. My husband is suffering from advancing Parkinson's disease.—Virginia

Thanks for the resources you've provided over the years. Please pray for my wife who is in remission for cancer.—New York

Please pray for my granddaughter, who is dying from a brain tumor. We need a miracle.—Alberta, Canada

A salivary gland on the right side of my neck has been swollen for quite a while. Please pray for God's healing.—Missouri

Please pray for my wife who has had severe headaches for years. I pray that the Lord lifts this from her.—New Hampshire

Please pray for our daughter-in-law, as she has thyroid problems.—Washington

Please pray for my wife who is recovering from a stroke. Thanks and may God bless everyone on the prayer list.—Texas

Please pray for my brother who is in a nursing home and seems to be getting dementia as he is becoming confused.—Ohio

I have been a diabetic for 40 years. I was recently diagnosed with kidney disease. Please pray for my healing.—New York

I'm struggling to make a personal decision. Please pray for God's direction and for his will, not mine.—North Carolina

Thanks for your prayers for my granddaughter. She is in an internship and may be hired when she graduates.—Minnesota

Please pray for my nephew who has trembling hands and arms and has had to stop being a surgeon.—Quebec, Canada

Please pray for my husband who is disabled, and pray for his caretaker.—Alabama

My sister is having surgery on her right kidney to remove a tumor. Please pray for her healing.—Texas

We are selling our home in order to downsize. Please pray that all will go smoothly.—Washington

Please pray that my wife's back will be healed and that she'll be able to return to work.—New York

My husband needs relief from nerve pain in his leg which started recently, possibly from an old back injury.—Pennsylvania

My wife has Parkinson's disease. Please pray that the alternative treatment she is receiving will be helpful.—California

My sister has given one of her kidneys to her husband. They are both continuing to heal and get stronger.—Ohio

Please pray for my son's friend and her daughter. They are both struggling with multiple sclerosis.—Michigan

Thanks for your prayers for my Parkinson's—I am home now. My hallucinations and confusion have improved.—Virginia

My daughter will have to serve some jail time for her third DWI. Thank you for praying for her.—Texas

Please pray for healing of my sister's sciatic nerve and spine, and pray about my husband's depression.—Mississippi

Our Father in Heaven: We thank you for your grace, mercy and love. You love each of these individuals, and we thank you in advance for the answers you will provide for each request. With thanksgiving for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, our suffering servant who heals us, in whose name we pray—Amen.