

# Resculpting The Soul

Long Beach Alliance Church • November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.**

**~2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 3:17-18 (NASB)**

## 1) God ALONE Seals An Ancient Promise

- A) Just prior to Jesus Christ's betrayal by Judas Iscariot (Mark 14:43-50), Jesus led his disciples to Gethsemane, a garden adjacent to Jerusalem (14:32). Jesus cries out to God in intimate prayer, "Abba! Father!" (14:36).
- B) But as Jesus agonizes in prayer with God the Father (14:34-36), his closest disciples fall asleep three different times (14:37-41). As Jesus' chosen disciples sleep, Jesus is faithful and does what they cannot accomplish.
- C) At first glance, we might feel sorry for Jesus Christ, or disapprove of His narcoleptic disciples. But this is not the first time the promise of redemption has been assured as God's chosen have slept!
- D) God promised land, descendents, and blessing to Abram, his descendents, and the world (Genesis 12:1-3). Abram trusted God's Word, and asked God for assurance (15:7-8).
- E) God has Abram prepare a binding legal agreement, known as a covenant, sealed (bilaterally) through an elaborate ceremony (15:9-11) signifying, "May God make me like this animal, if I do not fulfill the demands of the covenant."

- F) But as night falls, Abram falls into a deep sleep (15:12). Then, in dramatic fashion, God alone seals the covenant agreement (15:17). The fulfillment of the promise rests on God (unilaterally). While God's chosen sleeps, God is faithful and does what Abram cannot accomplish.

## 2) **It's Not About Us! It's About Jesus Christ ALONE!**

- A) Because Jesus has fulfilled this ancient promise, the Apostle Paul writes that the penalty of the Law (sin and death) is now abolished for those in Christ (Romans 8:1-4).
- B) Those who are in Christ no longer live according to rules and regulations, but according to the Spirit of God. This is true freedom, living according to the Spirit of God, instead of living according to rules (8:9-11).
- C) Christians often label themselves as "sinners," feeling God views them with disappointment and embarrassment. But God bases our righteousness on Jesus Christ ALONE. It's not about our sin, it's about His victory (Galatians 2:20).
- D) Christ follower! You are no longer a sinner, but a saint! The Greek word for "saints" is more clearly "holy ones" (e.g. Romans 8:27). Why are Christians named "HOLY ones?" It's the HOLY Spirit! The Spirit of Jesus, alive in YOU!

## 3) **The Holy Spirit ALONE Cries Out "Abba, Father..."**

- A) Utilizing rich Roman imagery, Paul examples the radical change which happens in our lives through adoption (8:15). Roman adoption assured a complete change of every aspect of one's life! The old is gone, the new has come!
- B) The Spirit of God cries out in our souls to "Abba! Father!" (8:15). The same Spirit of fire which sealed His promise with mankind, which cried out to God in Gethsemane's garden, which raised Jesus from the dead, is alive in YOU.
- C) Rather than walk through this life obsessively concerned with what we do, God invites us into His family, adopted and changed, to become who we already are!