"And being found in fashion <u>as a man</u>, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross." Philippians 2:8 KJV

Have you ascended to Heaven yet? Have you been transformed into a celestial being in the presence of the risen Saviour, Jesus Christ, or are you still earthbound, cumbered about with mortal



flesh? Does sin daily beset and waylay your best laid plans to live righteously? Do you still find yourself in need of the quiet confidence of knowing there is "one Mediator between God and man," Jesus? Do you call yourself a Christian and mean it, or is it just a convenient label you maintain by quoting Scripture, appearance in Church, and a few warm handshakes? A Christian is a Christ imitator; a disciple of His teachings and ways, who always remembers He freely laid down His life; "a ransom for many!" What sacrifices have you made for Christ, who "being found in fashion as a man, became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross?" Many who call themselves believers rationalize their behavior instead of just simply obeying God's Word. "I can't do that, because..." is a well-rehearsed and often used preguel to every reason under the sun for not obeying God's Word! Don't you even care that God knows every intention and excuse before you make them? "God is...a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 'O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, Thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, Thou knowest it altogether." God only forgives upon repentance and confession (admission) of sin. Admitting a list of your sins to God doesn't qualify as repentance if you continue in them. "What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" Do you really want to die? "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap: For the wages of sin is death, BUT the gift of God is eternal life THROUGH JESUS CHRIST our Lord." Yes, God will terminate the earthly life of believers who continue in sin by letting them reap the consequences of sin. Sometimes God saves you from sin through sickness, crippling, or even the early death of a loved one. Be careful what you sow! "God is not willing that any should perish!" Believer or unbeliever, you can be saved from sin through faith and obedience to God's Word! You can ONLY do ALL things, "THROUGH CHRIST!" If you think you're OK in sin, you stand on the brink of destruction! Only as Christ through faith in God's Word increases your faith, will you find any deliverance from sin and death!

> Just as a man our Saviour came, And as a man endured our pain, For He the cross did not disdain, That man might heaven's portals gain! ~CGP

Deeds, platitudes, and prayer do not purchase Heaven. Only total dependence on and obedience of God's Word secures the destiny of men's souls! "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, 'The Lord knoweth them that are His.' And, 'Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." If you don't want to hear "Depart from me; I never knew you," on Judgment Day, realize you are still in need of a Saviour EVERY time you sin: Believers for cleansing and unbelievers for salvation.

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12 KJV