

# Beyond Adoration

## **A Look at How We Can Respond to the Lamb's Death For Us**

Everyone who is born again has been deeply affected by the death of our beloved Lord. To meditate upon His travail through His Cross stirs up our love for Him and desire to love Him more. The articles in this booklet are dedicated to the hearts that long to go even beyond that sense of adoration into the oneness that was brought forth through His death. Those who choose to go beyond adoring the Cross will allow the work of the Cross to be applied in them. May the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ bring us into a knowledge of Him that goes far beyond adoration into us partaking of the Divine Nature.

### **Part One:**

## **“It Must Go Beyond Adoration”**

### **The Lamb Our Altar**

For many, to see the Lamb nature manifestly is a deeply moving experience. It can touch our emotions and really pull on our heartstrings. To approve and even identify with this nature is one thing, but to possess it, making it our own life, is a different intention. One can be a great adoration, while the other is death to self. To see a movie, observe someone else, or to hear inspired preaching about the Lamb's nature and to be deeply stirred in your spirit is one thing, but to turn from self and embrace the Lamb as your Life in crisis is altogether another response.

The true knowing of the mystery of God's love is sealed by a nature. We come to know God's nature as we partake of the Lamb as Life. Jesus said unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood you have no part in me (Jn. 6:53). We are not called to be scholars or inspired speakers, neither are we called to merely adore His beauty, we are called His Body and therefore He has purposed for us to know Him by His Life filling us.

As His Body we inherit all that belongs to Him and is in Him, but many receive their inheritance and yet reject the Heir. To know we are His Body and yet reject His nature is to do just this. We can adore this selfless Lamb, or we can love Him with our lives – embracing Him as our altar where we leave our life and receive His nature as our own.

The Bride of the Lamb is choosing Him in this way, daily denying herself and receiving Him as Life. Christ the Lamb must become our altar where we put off our old nature to embrace His. To many the Lamb has become an ideal, rather than an altar. In that sense He cannot be experienced as Life, only as a lofty and unattainable image that stirs our emotions. The Lamb is not just another lifeless idol unable to give Life. David cried out in *Psalm 27:4*, “*Oneness have I desired.*” Not adoration, but union! And Paul’s heart joins with David’s cry in saying, “*That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death...*” (*Phil. 3:10-11*). For them, knowing the Lamb meant embracing His Cross. These men would not stop short of partaking of the Divine Nature.

May we allow the Holy Spirit to open the Book and show us Jesus, but may we also allow the Lamb to break open the seals that He may flow forth from us as Life.

\*Part two of this month’s article is called “What It Means To Go Beyond Adoration”, and it addresses the process that we must yield to in order for this beautiful Lamb nature to once again manifest Himself through us, His Body. This second part is focusing on the Cross as God’s instrument of circumcision.

## **Part Two:**

### **“What It Means To Go Beyond Adoration”**

#### **The Cross as Circumcision**

*“For the preaching of the Cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God” (1 Cor. 1:18).*

Paul didn’t preach an impotent or powerless Gospel. He preached the Cross as circumcision, God’s tool to eliminate the flesh. The Word he preached was not meant to give men wisdom, but to make men’s wisdom foolishness. Rather than increasing man in wisdom and strength, the preaching of the Cross was meant to bring an end to it.

Many enjoy hearing the message of Christ. Many feel confident that this is the true Gospel. There may be a certain amount of satisfaction found in sensing the power of God behind the preaching of the Cross. When we hear the preaching of the Cross going forth we might enjoy watching the Sword of God’s spoken Word as it glitters and glides through the air. Yet how many hearts will allow this Word to become God’s tool of circumcision? This message must go beyond the hearing of our ears to the piercing of our hearts.

## **“A Fair Show in The Flesh?”**

*“And as many desire to make a fair show in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh” (Gal. 6:12-13).*

Others make a fair show in the flesh to avoid the circumcision of the Cross of Christ. They have found a way to allow the flesh to live while making it look like they are doing it for God. They preach “self-improvement, humility, love, gentleness, etc...” as a product of the flesh doing it for God rather than allowing the removal of the flesh through the Cross for God to bring forth these things in us by His Life. They may sound Christ-centered as they command people to act and be “Christ-like”, but they are effectually preventing the people from bringing forth Christ by causing them to try to do it through their own resources. It may sound very similar, but in actuality it is a stand against Christ as Circumcision and Life. They glory when no glory has come forth because outward acts of “circumcision” satisfy them rather than the true coming forth of Christ. They make fair shows in the flesh to look Christ-like so that they can avoid the Cross that will remove their flesh. Paul said that God forbade him to glory save in the Cross of Christ whereby he was cut-off/crucified from the ways of this world (Gal. 6:14).

## **“Is Circumcision Your Sign of Covenant?”**

*“This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between and you and thy seed after thee: Every male child among you shall be circumcised. And you shall be circumcised and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you” (Gen. 17:10-11).*

*“Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers” (Rom. 15:8).*

For many of us the sign of our relationship with God is not circumcision. There are many things that we can hold within our hearts as the basis of our relationship with God. It can be the teachings we believe, our commitments and acts of sacrifice to the Lord, our feelings of love and desire towards Jesus, the ministry we do in the name of the Lord, and on and on. But this is not the basis of relationship upon which God has covenanted with us. Circumcision is both the sign and the covenant that God has specified in the Old and New Testaments to show forth His relationship with man. To be in relationship with God requires circumcision. But this outward sign of circumcision was meant to represent an inward reality. Circumcision demands a relationship based on the in-working of His death and the coming forth of His Life. Circumcision steps out of the realm of human activity and into the realm of God’s activity. *“For we are the circumcision, which*

*worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh” (Phil. 3:3).*

## **The Circumcision of the Cross**

*“In Whom also you are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ” (Col. 2:11).*

The scriptures declare the work of circumcision was brought forth through Christ and Him crucified. It was in Him that we were circumcised. Later in these same scriptures it goes on to say that we were once dead in the uncircumcision of our flesh (Col. 2:13). The uttermost problem with the flesh was not its sinfulness but its uncircumcised status. We are ever trying to deal with the problems of our flesh rather than realizing its real problem is that it is still there! The Cross removed our problem with the flesh by removing the flesh. To accept God’s provision for the flesh is to allow the preaching of the Cross to sink into our ears. The work of circumcision completed through Christ’s Cross must now be applied to our hearts. Our faith allows God’s work of circumcision to become effectual in us (Col. 2:12b).

The Word of God and the preaching of the Cross becomes the tool that applies the application of Christ’s circumcision to us. The Word is powerful and active, a two-edged sword that cuts away and divides the flesh from spirit (Heb. 4:12). When the Word of God is being received properly it has the power to pierce our hearts and expose deep and hidden motivations that would usurp the life of Christ within. This process is allowing the work of Christ’s Cross to become effectual in us (1 Cor. 1:18).

## **The Sign of Success ... Circumcision**

*“But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God” (Rom. 2:29).*

We may desire a sign to show others that we are of God. It may be important for some to have a proof of success to validate their walk in Christ or prove their effectiveness as a minister. Such signs could include a booming outward move of God with exciting numbers of salvations and powerful services with huge altar calls. It may translate to us that our financial problems are solved, our sickness is healed and our relationships are all mended. These things may very well be from God and a wonderful blessing, yet they do not necessarily constitute a proof of inward circumcision. God through His grace can use someone as a vessel to exhibit His power in an outward way while at the very same time that same heart may be rejecting inward circumcision. On the other hand, if nothing outwardly great happened, yet inwardly everyone was yielding to the nature of Christ

within, then truly that would be a great success! Many desire the praise to be of man and so they require something great outwardly to happen so that man can see. But when God sees His Son in us because we have embraced the preaching of the Cross, then we have the true sign of success: a circumcised heart.

### **In Conclusion...**

The aim of this article has been to draw forth a response from the Lord's Body to seek Christ in a way that will go beyond adoration and bring forth oneness of nature.

Feelings fade, movies and experiences are soon forgotten, but allowing Christ to be formed in our hearts will endure. To be touched by the beauty of the Lord with no true inward change into His nature is just another temporal experience. Christ died with all his heart and all his strength to bring forth a body and a bride that would be filled with His Same life. If we really love Him, then we should take to heart the true purpose of His death and receive the circumcision of His Cross.\*\*\*

*"But God forbid that I should glory,  
except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
by whom the world is crucified unto me,  
and I unto the world."  
Galatians 6:14*