

III. Christ opened a new and living way for man to partake of the tree of life through His all-inclusive death on the cross.

- A. Christ died to accomplish an eternal redemption which fulfilled all the requirements of God's glory, holiness, and righteousness.
- B. Jesus Christ took away man's sin and terminate man's sinful nature .
- C. When Jesus was crucified the separation between God and man was abolished because the veil of the temple (symbolizing the flesh taken by Christ) was split in two.
- D. A new and living way was opened for man who is alienated from God to take and enjoy Him as the tree of life.
- E. The broken flesh of Christ is therefore man's only way to God.

IV. The redeemed man has the right to the tree of life in the New Jerusalem, the Paradise of God in eternity.

- A. The Bible's final promise to man is the enjoyment of the tree of life, which is Christ with all the riches of life.
- B. The Christ-believing man washes his robes, his conduct, through the washing of the blood of the lamb, giving him the right to the tree of life.
- C. Christ as the tree of life is the believer's eternal portion.
- D. By enjoying the life of God man is regenerated and can enter by the gates into the holy city.
- E. The New Jerusalem is the realm of God's eternal blessing.

*A
New
And
Living
Way*

Scripture reading:

Gen. 2:9a "And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden..."

Gen. 3:24b "...and at the east of the garden of Eden He placed the cherubim and a flaming sword which turn in every direction to guard the way to the tree of life."

Mat. 27:51 "And behold, the veil of the temple was split in two from top to bottom..."

Rom. 3:10 "...There is none righteous, not even one"

Rom. 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"

Rom. 7:12a "So then the law is holy...

14 but I am fleshy, sold under sin."

Heb. 10:19 "Having therefore...boldness for entering the Holy of Holies in the blood of Jesus,

20 which entrance He initiated for us as a new and living way through the veil, that is, His flesh."

Rev. 22:14 "Blessed are those who wash their robes that they may have right to the tree of life and may enter by the gates into the city."

Outline:

I. God desire that man would eat the tree of life in the garden of Eden to receive God into him as life and fulfill God's purpose:

- A. The tree of life signifies God in Christ as life to man in the form of food.
- B. God placed the created man in front of the tree of life to indicate that He wants man to eat him and become the very constituent of His being.
- C. This life--the divine, eternal, uncreated life of God--is Christ.
- D. Christ was processed through incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection that man may have life and live by eating Him.
- E. Man's outcome and destiny before God depends altogether on what he eats.

II. God closed the way to the tree of life to the fallen man.

- A. The tree of life must not be touched by sinful man who contradicted God's being and His attributes.
- B. God placed the cherubim (signifying God's glory), the flame (representing God's holiness), and the sword (indicating God's righteousness) to guard the way to the tree of life.
- C. God's glory, holiness, and righteousness place great demands on sinful man who has offended God's holy being, broken God's righteous law, and fall short of God's glory.
- D. Unable to meet God's demands and thus without the possibility of receiving God's eternal life, man is condemned to die and to perish forever.
- E. Man needs a way to access and partake of the tree of life to receive eternal life.