



# God-Sized Problems

How does He hold it all together?

*Eager to maintain the **unity of the Spirit** in the bond of peace*

*Ephesians 4.3*



# What are God-sized problems?

- ❖ Global Warming
- ❖ Poverty
- ❖ Politics and War
- ❖ “-isms”
- ❖ All religions different
- ❖ “Acts of God” like floods, hurricanes, tornados...
- ❖ Inequality, starvation, deprivation, homelessness
- ❖ Conflict, ideological/territorial disputes, empire building
- ❖ Racism, sexism, communism, fascism, etc.
- ❖ No god, one god but no son, many gods, Jesus is Lord!

## Who will solve all these problems?

They each need to be boiled down, broken out into their complex details, and managed as best as possible over time by imperfect, finite, mortal men and women. What say we just get saved, bail out, and wait for Heaven...





# Who's responsible?





# My early life



## Separation/Reunion

Father in Europe until 12/45

***The "American Dream" won!***

Sister arrived 10/46, brother 1/55

Boy Scouts, air raid drills, McCarthy

**WWII Baby 3/13/43**

Hitler = the worst of Luther



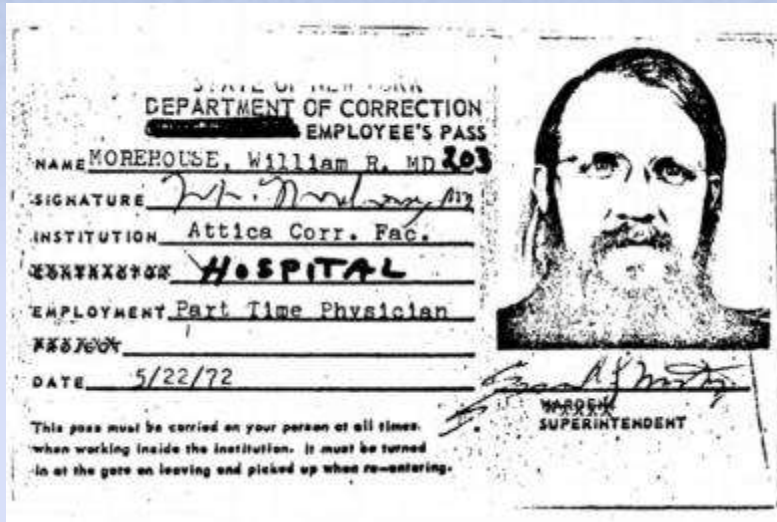




# Growing up and out

## Clean Boy 1966

Conservative, Church, Ivy League

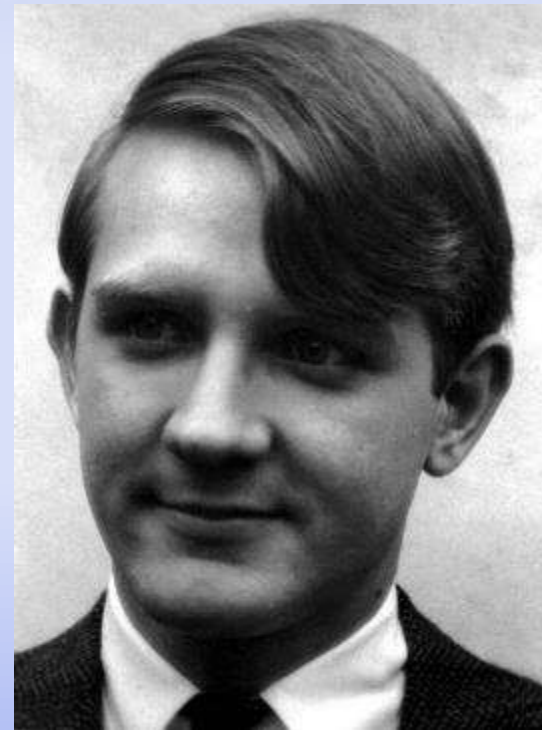


## Hippie Activist 1972

Anti-war justice warrior, free love, LGBTQ+, abortion, pot, motorcycle

*The Age of Aquarius won!*

Attica reform, save the inner city poor, smoke, drink, and be merry.





# New Life in Christ

## 1974-78

- ❖ Jesus answered prayer
- ❖ I said, “**Yes!**”
- ❖ Baptized, Holy Spirit
- ❖ Discipleship in group
- ❖ Married, 1<sup>st</sup> child
- ❖ Returned to medicine

## 1978-2018

- ❖ 3 more kids + 7 grandkids
- ❖ 40 years serving at His Branches, blended ministry to FQHC



*Jesus won!  
and so did I...*



## 2018-now

- ❖ Family
- ❖ His Kingdom and Us
- ❖ Celebrate Salvation





# Two current projects



**Celebrate Salvation!**  
The Joy of Christian Discipleship - A series for new and reawakened believers who wish to ground their faith in the Love, Power, Promise, and Truth of God's Word.

**Preparing for a better future...**

**Celebrate Salvation** was birthed in the disruption, pain, and promise of COVID-19 and grew in the midst of the social and political unrest of 2020 when a loosely knit but dedicated team of us began preparing for spiritual weathering by developing an in-depth Bible-based discipleship study course.

Why now? In the early 21st century as we've been experiencing increasingly serious political and social challenges to our civil society and even to the underlying Judeo-Christian ethos of our Western civilization, we've found ourselves yearning for an outpouring of God's Holy Spirit, for times of widespread awakening. Then the plague of COVID-19 far and drastically worsened the very character of the seasons mankind has been confronting.

As we've continued to pray, we've been reminded of the year that Noah was called to do: he was told that a great flood was coming and instructed to build a life-saving ark. We sense that a great outpouring of God's Holy Spirit is coming and that the Lord has commissioned us to prepare material for Him to use in equipping His people to raise up a new harvest of souls for His Kingdom.

God's process of reconciliation, cleansing, raising up, and strengthening for service is called "discipleship" and carries believers through three phases - being **Saved**, **Sanctified**, and **Serve** - into His harvest vineyards as spiritually mature disciples of Christ. The material we've been given is designed to become an active part of the nurture and teaching offered by awakened Christian churches, especially for use in the discipleship of new believers and those who desire further renewal and growth in their faith.

Do you not say, There are yet four months, then comes the harvest? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.

**Mission:** We are committed to developing ministry tools that can be employed by the Body of Christ to carry out the Lord's Great Commission to "make disciples of all nations."

**Vision:** Our vision is of fully awakened communities filled with the Spirit of God, equipped and encouraged by true disciples of Jesus, gathering in vibrant churches, and working together to reveal and advance His Kingdom in our midst as a visible manifestation of God's love for mankind.

**Interested?** Please join with us as we prepare together with eager anticipation for the amazing future our Lord has for all of us.

**Join Us Today!**

**Current Status of Series**

**Discipleship**  
[www.celebratesalvation.org](http://www.celebratesalvation.org)









# Dual Citizenship

- ❖ **Primary – Gospel** (Jesus is Lord!):  
Jesus is Lord!  
through all,  
into by people
- ❖ **Secondary** (Earthly kingdoms, philosophies, etc.):  
Hispanic, Turkish, Kodak, Xerox, Reformed Presbyterian, Episcopal, All living humans

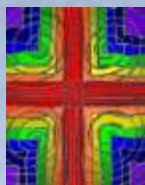




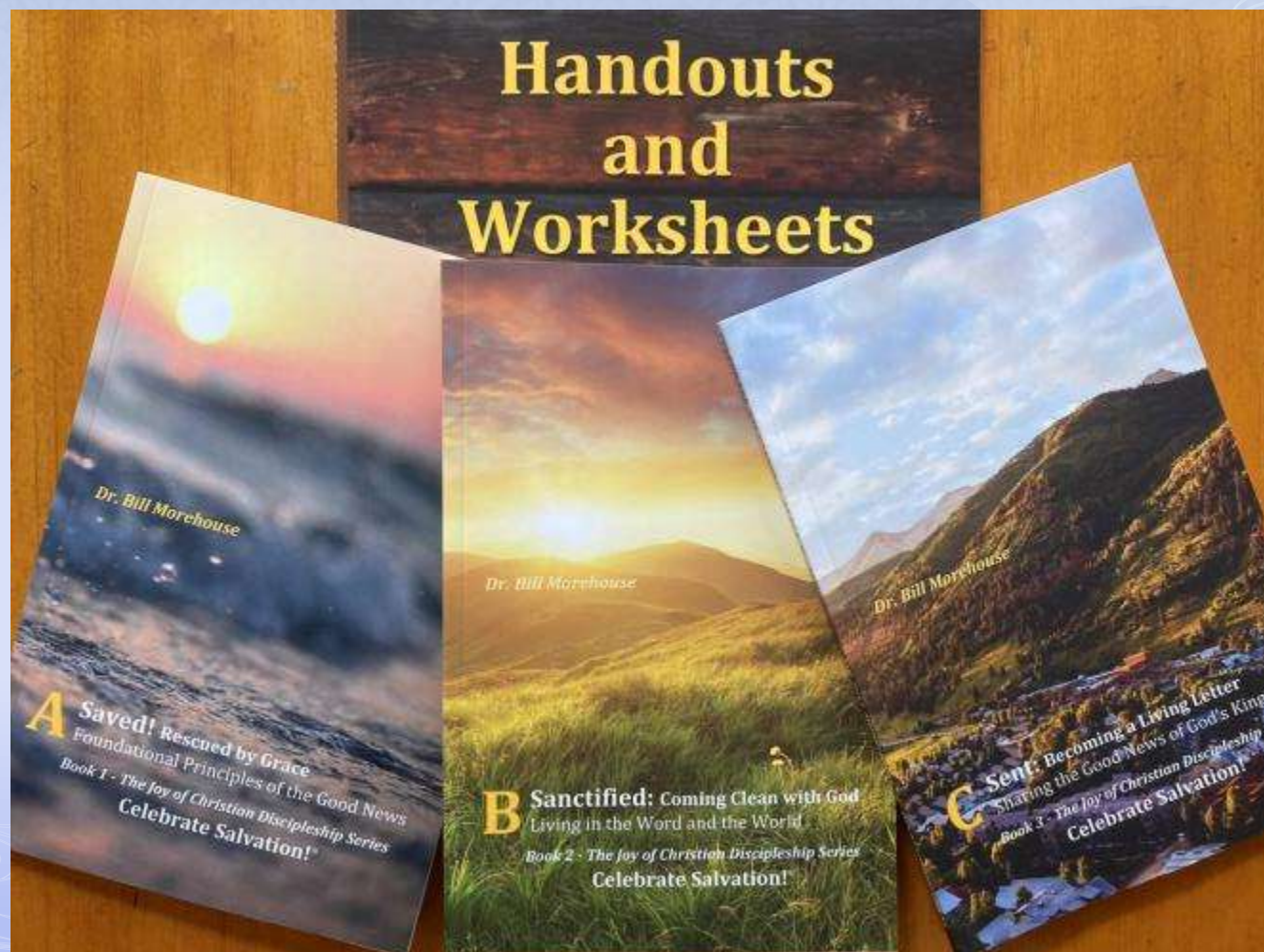
# The Great Commission

- ❖ **Great Commission:** *“Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw Him they worshiped Him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’”*  
**Matthew 28:16-20**
- ❖ **How do we “make disciples”?** Initiated and guided by the Holy Spirit who awakens people, opens their eyes, convicts of sin and righteousness, and calls them to faith. Then there must be a disciplined way, a method, a pattern, a curriculum, a structured teaching, a course of advocacy, instruction, and accountability in place to help them understand what has happened to them and to guide raising them up. First milk, then full food, then meaty education. Ready?





# The Joy of Christian Discipleship





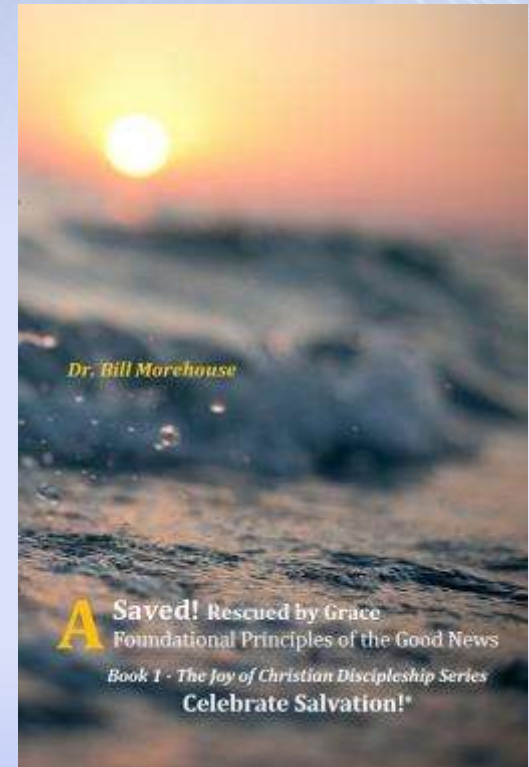
# Saved! Rescued by Grace

## Stage A

### Foundational principles of the Good News

1. Recognize that I'm in trouble
2. Believe in God's love
3. Let go and let God

Twelve Lesson workbook covers our need for salvation, God's love in Christ, the conversion process, being sealed by baptism, and the place and power of the Holy Spirit in new birth and adoption.



*Book 1*





# Sanctified: Coming Clean with God

## Stage B

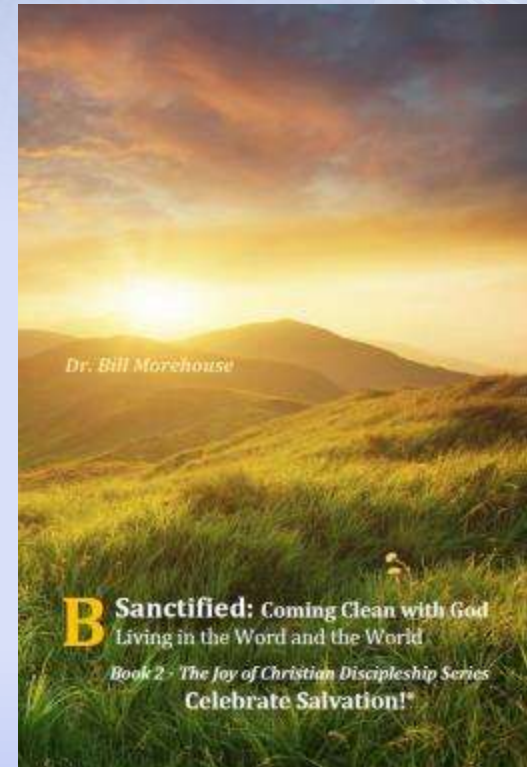
### Living in the Word and the World

**4. Conviction and Repentance**

**5. Trust and Obey**

**6. Communicating with God**

Twelve Lesson workbook goes through the purifying process of overcoming pain and dysfunction through conviction and godly confession, receiving and giving forgiveness, making amends, and reconciling with God and man.



*Book 2*



# Sent: Becoming a Living Letter

## Stage C

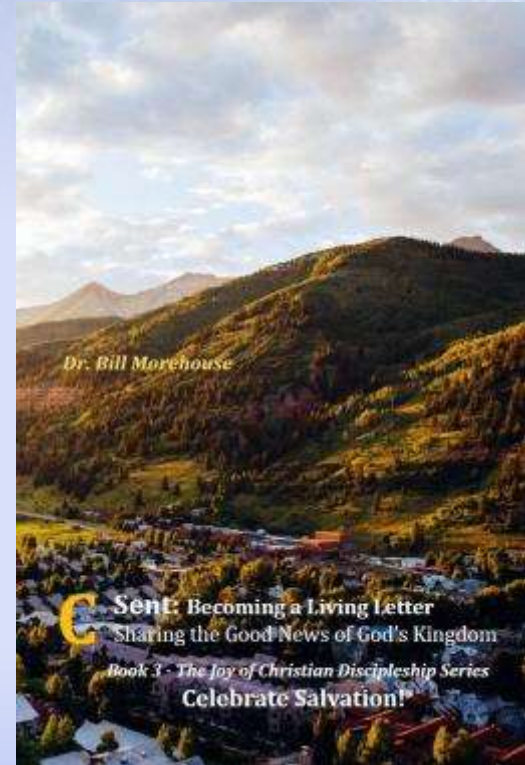
### Sharing the Good News of God's Kingdom

#### 7. The Great Commission:

Bringing God's Good News to others  
in **word, deed, and power.**

Twelve Lesson workbook guides disciple  
into becoming effective in carrying out the  
Great Commission of winning others to  
Christ and making other disciples, starting  
right where you are.

*To God be the Glory!*



*Book 3*





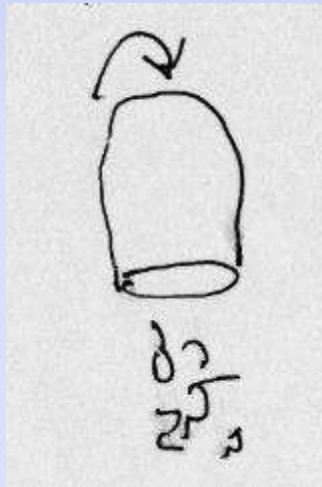
# Coming to life

Lived Life,  
Got junk-filled



Sin

Met Jesus,  
Turned Over



Repentance

Empty/Clean,  
Baptized

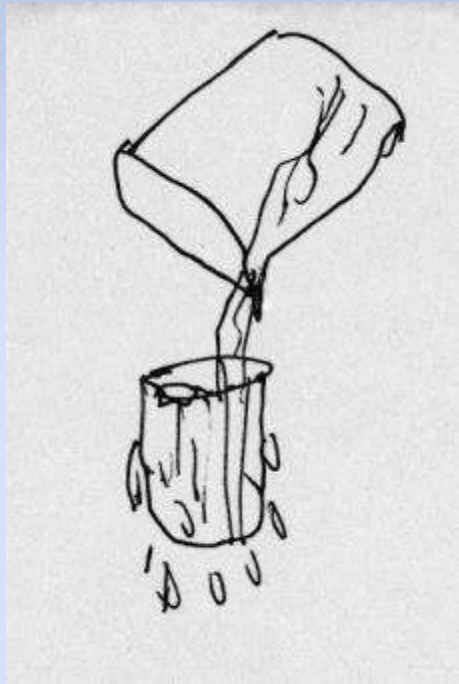


New Life, Love

*Love, new life in Christ seems to leak out leaving empty feeling.  
Believer asks for filling of the Holy Spirit →*

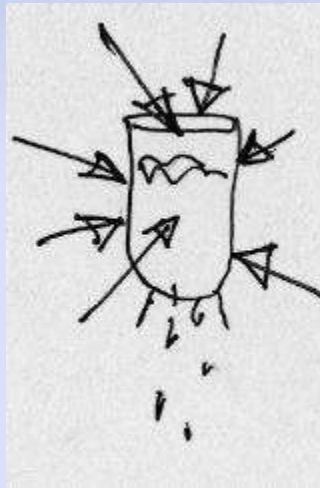


# Abiding in Him!

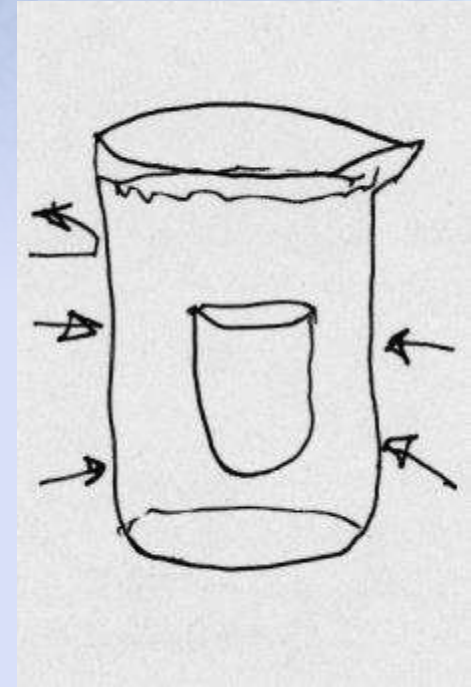


Refilled repeatedly?

Life/Love Keeps  
Leaking Out



*Attacked  
on all sides*



Victory! In Love!

*Believer keeps sinning, asks God to baptize (immerse) them  
in His Holy Spirit → Voila! "It's like living inside a miracle!"*

**Take away:** Being baptized in the Holy Spirit is a position, not an event.

*Acts 17.28*





# In Love With God

You shall be immersed in the love of God **with every part of your being – body, soul, and spirit** – surrounded by his care, suffused with his nurture, always aware of his fond affection for you, reaching out joyfully to join in his embrace, and inviting others into the love and acceptance of his family.

*Matthew 22.37 (my big expansion)*

This is your spiritual worship...

*Romans 12.1*



**In him we live and move and have our being...  
For we are indeed his offspring.**

*Acts 17.28*



# Loving God All the Way

- ❖ Body
  - with all your heart
- ❖ Soul
  - with all your soul
- ❖ Spirit
  - with all your mind
- ❖ Eros
  - with deep affection
- ❖ Phileo
  - with deep commitment
- ❖ Agape
  - with your whole being





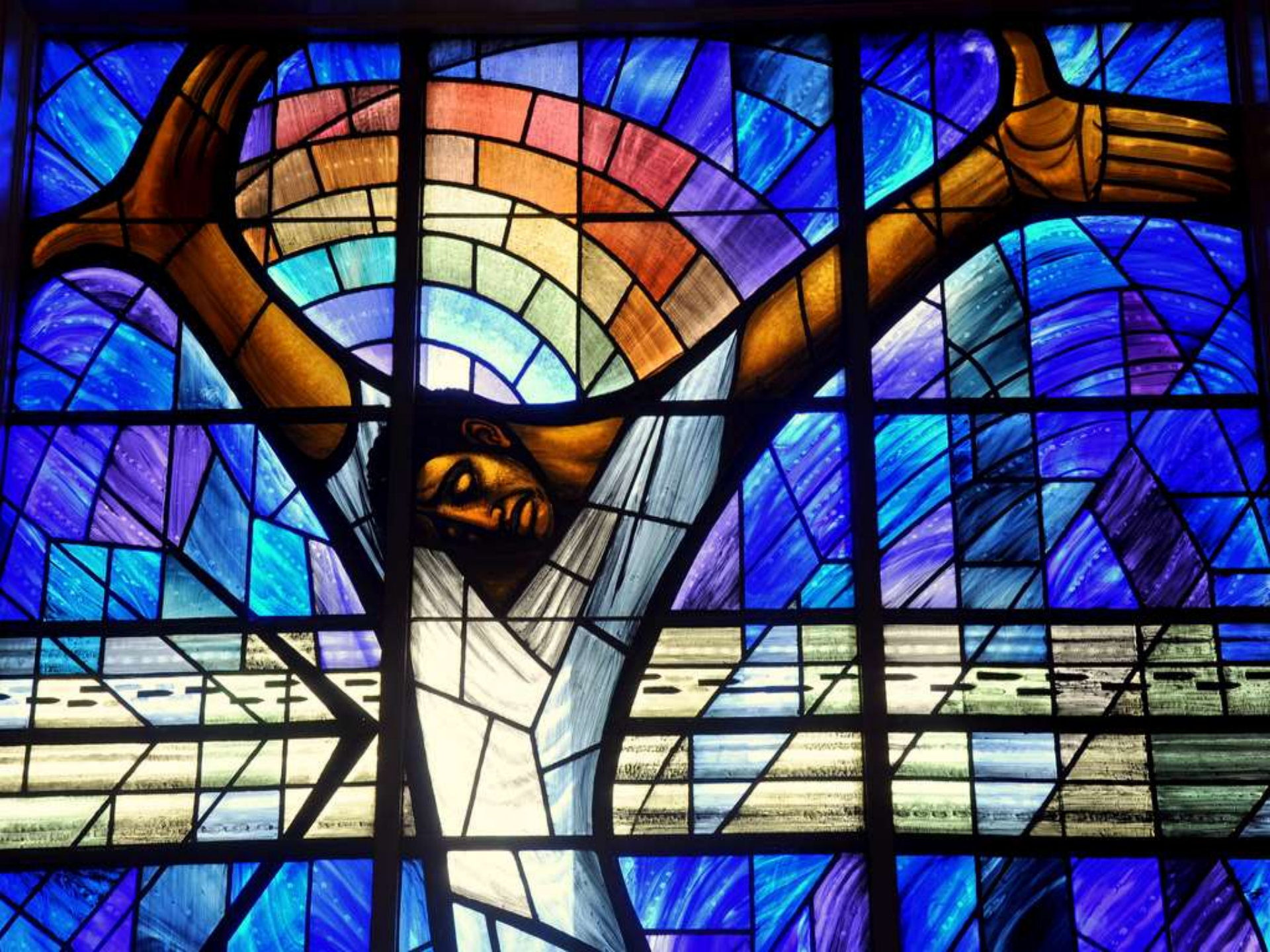
# One Body



For just as **the body is one and has many members**, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many.

## 1 Corinthians 12.12-14



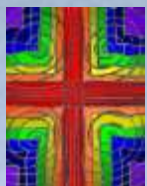






# United with Him we stand... ...divided we fail and fall.

- ❖ **I do not ask for these only**, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, **that they may all be one**, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.
- ❖ **And I, when I am lifted up, will draw all people to myself.**
- ❖ **How often would I have gathered your children together** as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!
- ❖ **The sacrament of life: This is my body, broken for you.** Do this in remembrance of me.
- ❖ **When we see brokenness, we are called to bring hope, healing, and restoration in Jesus' name.**



# Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...

- ❖ **Pray, read and review course material and recommit to Him.** Personal and group revival are coming with broader awakening in the wings.
- ❖ **Go back to your church and introduce the idea to your pastor and leadership.** Get enthused about the Caleb call on your life and watch it become contagious.
- ❖ **Get discipleship going in your congregation** and follow up to keep it growing. Instruction sheet available.
- ❖ **Host and lead a group yourself.** You will love it and be energized. Leadership guidelines available.
- ❖ **Call for assistance as needed.** Our website and handouts are very helpful, and I'm personally available. Remember, I've graduated into retirement...





# Resources

- ❖ ***His Kingdom and Us*** – [www.hiskingdom.us](http://www.hiskingdom.us)  
*Alpha to Omega, editorial assistance welcome*
- ❖ ***Celebrate Salvation*** – [www.celebratesalvation.org](http://www.celebratesalvation.org)  
*Contains background*  
*More detailed information*  
*Handouts and references*

***My thanks to all of you!***