

Summing up in Jesus – Part 4

In the Kingdom of God (we're in the subtopic of Summing up in Jesus, and I do hope to finish that subtopic today) we began with the Trinity; the Trinity, remember, the Father saying this is My beloved Son, listen to Him as the Father sums up all things in Jesus. And then the Holy Spirit Who will bear witness of Jesus, Who will give glory to Jesus, Who will do nothing of His own initiative, Who will remain anonymously in the background bearing witness of Jesus as the Holy Spirit sums up all things in Jesus. Then we started with the essences of God, the three critical essences to review how they were summed up in Jesus and we learned that the sovereign, majestic creator King is all summed up in Jesus. The fierce but righteous judge is all summed up in Jesus and the passionate lover is all summed up in Jesus. We, the children of God will know love by this that He laid down His life for us, delivered Himself up for us. So looking with great detail at all that took place on the cross is the revelation to us of the love of God for us. Then we began to look at some expressions flowing out of the Trinity through the essences and just to mention what we ended with last week that Jesus is, in fact, the promises of God; they are all yes in Jesus. Every spiritual blessing we've been given in Jesus; He's where we are to dwell—abide in Me, in Jesus. He is our source—I am the vine, you are the branches. Except the branches attach to the vine, we can do nothing. We can bear no fruit. So He is our source for all things. He's the thing of value. His Kingdom, the Kingdom of Heaven is the pearl of great value; it's the treasure in the field. So the only thing of intrinsic worth is the King, Jesus Christ, and His Kingdom. He's the King of kings – Revelation 19:16. He's our one mediator between God and man, our one in-between if you will, a mediator being one who interposes between parties that are at variance in order to reconcile them. So our reconciliation to God is all summed up in Jesus.

So we'll pick it up at that point and go forward. Jesus is our intercessor. Romans 8:34 – Christ Jesus is He Who died, yes, rather Who was raised at the right hand of God Who also intercedes for us. So what is an intercessor? Well the dictionary definition is one who prays, petitions, or entreaties on behalf of another. And that same principle is addressed in Hebrews 7:25 when speaking of Jesus it says – He always lives to make intercession for them. And now we are part of the “them” that He is always living to make intercession for. He's our power. Philippians 4:13 – I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me. He's our advocate. I John 2:1 – And if anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. So what is an advocate? An advocate is one who pleads the cause of another as before a tribunal or judicial court. Jesus is our freedom. John 8:36 – If, therefore, the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed. In Christ, we are, of course, free from the penalty of sin. Through Christ, by abiding in Him, we are free from the power of sin. And then when we are glorified (as we'll address later), we'll be free from even the presence of sin and we're not only free from sin, we are free to enjoy the glory of God, to enjoy the grace of God, to enjoy God Himself instead of living in dread and terror of the wrath of God. We are free from sin and free unto the pleasure of the creator God. That is freedom.

Jesus is our model. I John 2:6 – the one who says he abides in Him, Jesus, ought also to walk in the same manner as He walked; hence the term, Christlikeness as our goal. Jesus is the Messiah of the Old Testament and that means, of course, the anointed One. And that word in the New Testament that means the same thing derived from the Greek is Christ. Matthew 16:15-16 – But who do you say that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God, the anointed one of God. So other people may have anointings to accomplish specific things for the purposes of God; but the anointed One (in capital letters) is Jesus Christ. Jesus becomes our constraint. Constrain means to compel, to force, to secure by bond, to confine to restrain. So what confines us? II Corinthians 5:14 – for the love of Christ constraineth us. You do not overcome sin by your willpower alone. You use your willpower to seek God, to get a revelation progressively of the love of God as Jesus Christ is progressively revealed to you. And then that love is what constrains you; because when you know the love of God through Jesus Christ, you love God and love is a passion for oneness. So when you have a passion for oneness for the one thing and are attracted magnetically to that, you are constrained from that which is going in the opposite direction. So that's how the love of God constrains us through Jesus Christ. So in that sense, Jesus is not just our redeemer, He is our sanctifier. That is to say, He is the method by which we are progressively purified. Your hope of purification is not your willpower. Your hope of purification is to see Jesus Christ as He is. We have that final stage revealed to us in I John 3:2-3 – We know that when He (Jesus) appears we shall be like Him. Why shall we be like Him? Because we shall see Him just as He is. So the key to progressive purification is to progressively see Jesus just as He is, not by reliance on your willpower to resist sin. And everyone (the verse continues) who has this hope fixed on Him. So your optimistic expectation of purification is fixed on Jesus, seeing Him progressively as He is. That's why it is so critical to get a revelation of all the events of the cross, the other than holy righteousness of God revealed on the cross, the love of God revealed on the cross, the hatred of God for sin revealed on the cross. Because as you progressively receive the revelations of God Himself as revealed through those events, you will be purified if, in fact, your hope is fixed on the revelation of God through Jesus Christ instead of your hope fixed on your willpower to independently resist sin.

So Jesus Christ is our hope in all things, not just progressive sanctification. I Peter 1:13 – Fix your hope completely on the grace brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. So any optimistic expectation we have for events here on Earth after salvation, are all to be fixed on the grace brought to us at the revelation of Jesus Christ. And that grace has two components. It is empowering facilitating grace to empower you to turn to God through Jesus Christ and empowering restraining grace to restrain yourself on the throne which continues to want to resist the things of God through Jesus Christ. But it is empowering grace that our hope is to be fixed upon, not our willpower to fight the battle independently against sin.

Our glorification is all summed up in Jesus. Philippians 3:20-21 – For our citizenship is in Heaven from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, Who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself. It is true when

Jesus comes at the rapture, we will have our dead bodies resurrected, then changed into glorified bodies just like Jesus now has as He sits at the right hand of the Father. So your glorification yet to come is all summed up in Jesus.

Jesus is our focus. Hebrews 12:2 begins – Fixing our eyes on Jesus. Jesus is the author and perfecter of our faith. Again, continuing in Hebrews 12:2 – Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith. Jesus begins it, He writes it and He finishes it as we continue to gaze at Him until finally when either death or the rapture interposes and we then see Him as He is; and then that stage is complete because we will be like Him because we will see Him as He is. So Jesus began it in Genesis 1:1. He'll wrap it up in the book of Revelation with the marriage feast of the Lamb, the final judgment, the passing of the present Heaven and Earth and the coming down of the New Heaven and New Earth. That's why it's stated in Revelation 22:13: I am the first and the last, the beginning and the end, the alpha and omega, and all points in-between are all summed up in Jesus.

Jesus is our breakthrough. And I use this terminology because you will commonly hear it said I need a spiritual breakthrough. So we're going to look at that. Mark 15:37-38 – And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed His last and the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The veil, remember, is what kept people out of the Holy of Holies, the inner most chamber of the temple where the glory of God dwelled. When the veil was rent, it was not just empty showmanship to give a dramatic flourish to the story of the cross. It means that the way into the presence of God is now wide open and it was opened by God from top to bottom (not bottom to top by man) and that way through is through the cross of Jesus Christ. Thus, Jesus becomes our access to God. Ephesians 2:18 – For through Him (Jesus) we both have our access in one spirit to the Father. The two that Paul is talking about in that verse refers to Jew and Gentile, Jew and non-Jew which of course is every human being as Jew or non-Jew. That covers everybody. Ephesians 3:11-12 – This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord in Whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him. We enter with humility because of Who God is. But we enter with boldness because of what God has done through Jesus Christ and how He feels about us. So we enter with either bold humility or humble boldness, but enter we do with the proper attitude of humility before our God because He is holy. The only breakthrough that you need is to see that you don't need a breakthrough. You only need to see that Jesus is your breakthrough. Now in Jesus you walk in with confident boldness before your God. Thinking that you need a breakthrough in the spirit realm as a Christian is simply an excuse for not coming, for not entering. It's like the people who wanted a credit for wanting to come to the banquet, but they all had an excuse. But they wanted credit for wanting to come without coming. So when you think that you need a breakthrough into the presence of God as a Christian, you're wanting credit for wanting to come without coming, you see; because it's all summed up in Jesus. Jesus is our breakthrough, so thinking that you need a breakthrough is part of the deception of Satan to keep you from entering the presence of God through what Jesus has already provided through Whom we have confident access which is all summed up in Jesus.

Jesus is our overcomer. John 16:33 – I have overcome the world. Well He has, now how do we? The same way that we do everything else in the Kingdom of God; by faith in Jesus. I John 5:5 – And who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. So this overcoming includes everything right up to the final enemy called death. Hebrews 2:14-15 – Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise (Jesus) also partook of the same that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death (that is the devil) and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives. Acts 2:24 (remember) – it was impossible for the grave to hold Him. This is the Son of God in Whom we have faith about overcoming death. It was not a narrow victory barely obtained by the power of God barely edging out the power of death through sin. It was impossible for the grave to hold Him and that is our confident approach to the thought of death. That's why, oh, to die is gain; because where is the sting of death? When this first fruit, Jesus Christ, comes out of the grave, it is the testimony to us of what awaits us. It will be impossible for the grave to hold us, as children of God. That's all summed up in Jesus.

Jesus is our high priest. Hebrews 6:20 – Where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedec. Hebrews 3:1 – Consider Jesus the apostle and high priest of our confession. Hebrews 2:17 – Therefore He (Jesus) had to be made like His brethren in all things that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God to make propitiation for the sins of the people. Recall the simple explanation of a priest—that a priest takes the needs of man to God and brings the provision of God to man. And Jesus is the high priest Who did that in an ultimate sense, not in a symbolic sense. The high priest stood for us on our behalf to take our needs to God and bring the provision of God to us is all summed up in Jesus.

Jesus is our upholder. Colossians 1:17 – In Him all things hold together.

Jesus is our rock. Matthew 7:24 – Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and acts upon them may be compared to a wise man who built his house upon the rock. So we pursue wisdom, but what is wisdom? Wisdom is build your house on the rock called Jesus and sum up all things in Jesus. Anything not built on the rock will sink because we are here to bear the image of God Himself and that is revealed to us in Jesus Christ. That is the rock we have to build upon.

Jesus is our cornerstone. Ephesians 2:20 – Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone. The cornerstone is that part which if you take it out, everything will collapse.

Jesus is our foundation. Ephesians 3:11 – for no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid which is Jesus Christ. So everything that is weight-supporting in the Kingdom of God has to be Jesus Christ or it will sink. It will collapse and it will be worthless and will be burned up as wood, hay, and stubble at the time of the final assessment of our lives as Christians assayed by God.

Jesus is the only thing of which we boast. II Corinthians 10:17 – But he who boasts, let him boast in the Lord. Galatians 6:14 – But may it never be that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus is what we are to know. I Corinthians 2:2 – for I determine to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. So what are we to know? Nothing except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. What are we to teach? Nothing except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. What are we to boast of? Nothing except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. That is simply part of the revelation to us that the plan of God is to sum up all things in Jesus. That's why if someone asks me about church programs, I'm not opposed to programs, but I answer that question by saying I'm not a program man, I'm a reprogram man. My only program is to see people transformed by the renewing of the mind, by having their thoughts captured in obedience to Christ, to sum up all things in Jesus to fulfill the plan of God.

Jesus is where we cast all of our anxiety. I Peter 5:7 – Casting all your anxiety upon Him because He cares for you. He's the head of the church. Ephesians 1:22-23 – And He the Father put all things in subjection under His feet (Jesus) and gave Him (Jesus) as head over all things to the church. He's simply called the Beloved (with a capital B). Ephesians 1:6 – To the praise of the glory of His grace which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved (Jesus).

Jesus is the evidence that God will withhold nothing from us. Romans 8:32 – He Who did not spare His own Son, but delivered (so to speak) His other Self, the second member of the Trinity, Father equals Son equals Spirit, remember on the horizontal axis of the Trinity. And he didn't spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us, how will He also not with Him freely give us all things? So if you want evidence that God will withhold no spiritual blessing from you, it's all summed up in Jesus.

Jesus is the divine nature. Hebrews 1:3 – He (Jesus) is the exact representation of His (God's) nature. That divine nature is in us because God is in us. Colossians 1:27 – Christ is in you, the hope of glory. So Jesus is the exact divine nature of God. Jesus, the Spirit of Christ is in us, that becomes our hope of glory. And what are we to do? We have it, so what are we to do? Jesus is what we are to partake of. II Peter 1:4 – for by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature. And that divine nature is the Spirit of Christ that's within you.

He's the destroyer of the works of the devil. I John 3:8 – The Son of God appeared for this purpose that He might destroy the works of the devil.

Jesus is our friend. John 15:15 – No longer do I call you slaves for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. Imagine that!—that the creator God of Genesis 1:1 regards us as His friends.

He's our joint heir or we are joint heirs with Him. Romans 8:17 – and if children heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.

He is our brother and sister and family. Imagine—that we are the family of Jesus Christ the Son of God Who in the beginning created the Heavens and the Earth. Matthew 12:50 – For whoever does the will of My Father Who is in Heaven, he is my brother and sister and mother. We are the spiritual family of the Son of God Himself. Hebrews 2:11 – For both He Who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father because we are born of God. We're children of God. We're in the family of God, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren. Can you imagine that the Son of God sitting at the right hand of the Father God at this moment is not ashamed in conversation to call us brother? Imagine that!

He's the source of our joy. John 15:11 – These things I have spoken to you that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be made full. There is no source of joy other than summing up all things in Jesus. There may be temporary pleasant positive emotions or happiness that are circumstance dependent and time limited; but if you want joy, the only true joy according to the dictates of God is the joy of the Son that flows out when we are summing up all things in Jesus at that present moment in our lives.

Jesus is the source of our peace. John 14:27 – Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you. So we want the fruit of the Spirit while neglecting the fact that the Spirit came to bear witness of Jesus, the Spirit came to glorify Jesus, the Spirit came to sum up all things in Jesus. So we want the fruit of the Spirit without doing the work of the Spirit which is to sum up all things in Jesus. So if you want communion with the Holy Spirit, sum up all things in Jesus. Join in agreement in humility with that process and the fruit of the Spirit will begin to flow. But the fruit of the Spirit cannot flow when you are insisting on summing up your life in something other than Jesus. It can't work both ways.

Jesus is the source of our joy, the source of our peace; He's the fulfillment of the law and the prophets. Matthew 5:17 – Do not think that I came to abolish the law or the prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill. He fulfilled for us that which we could not fulfill which in summation would be all the commandments and expectations of God.

Jesus is that which we are to eat. John 6:48 – I am the bread of life. John 6:51 – I am the living bread that came down out of Heaven. If anyone eats of this bread (meaning Himself) he shall live forever and the bread also which I shall give for the life of the world is My flesh. Now I want to make a specific point about eating Jesus. Chewing on the bread of life and then regurgitating it is not helpful. Chewing is only helpful if it is preparatory to fully swallowing it. Swallowing it is to take it into oneself, to believe it, to become it, and then to reveal it, to exude it; because we do become what we eat. We don't become what we chew on. A professor of religion, for instance, may chew on the Word of God his entire academic life yet never swallow a single morsel. He is always learning but never coming to the truth.

Jesus is what we're to drink. John 6:54-55 – He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life and I will raise him up on the last day for My flesh is true food and My blood is true drink. Jesus in the wilderness, remember, hadn't had anything to eat or drink for 40 days; but He said I have meat to eat that you know not of, remember that quote. He was eating and drinking of the Father and that was sustaining because the needs in the physical realm can never overpower the spiritual sustenance provided by an omnipotent God.

Jesus is what we're to put on. Romans 13:14 – But put on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus is the mystery of God, the knowledge of it revealed for us. Colossians 2:2 – Resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery that is Christ Himself. So if you want to know the plan of God, you look at Jesus. If you want to know the ultimate mystery of God, look at Jesus. Because the plan of God is to sum up all things in Jesus.

He's the light of the world. There are only two choices: walk in the light or walk in the darkness. John 8:12 – I am the light of the world.

Jesus is the manifest, that which is made evident, the grace of God. Ephesians 2:7 – In order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Are you beginning to get the drift of the plan of God? Your creation is all summed up in Jesus. Your salvation is all summed up in Jesus. Your justification, thus, all summed up in Jesus. Your progressive sanctification is all summed up in Jesus. Your glorification is all summed up in Jesus. Your eternal state for eternity future is all summed up in Jesus. So you come into the Kingdom of God as a child, knowing that Jesus is your Savior; but by no means knowing that it's all summed up in Jesus. You progress into adolescence in spiritual maturity by learning that He is more than you thought. There's more to this holiness thing than I thought. There's more to this sin thing than I thought. There's more to this judgment thing than I thought. There's more to this cross thing than I thought, and so on. You're mature when you know that you know that you know that you know that all things are summed up in Jesus. That's why we're told to capture every thought in obedience to Jesus; because every thought is going to be either pro-Christ summed up in Jesus or anti-Christ, opposing Jesus.

So the Trinity of God—imagine that!—summed up in Jesus. The essential characteristics of God, the essences, all summed up in Jesus. The expressions of those essences all summed up in Jesus. That is why He is your all in all. And that is your upward call that we're to press on toward. The only thing not yet summed up in Jesus is that part of your mind which is not renewed having been summed up in Jesus. It is unrenewed because you haven't yet responded to the upward call to summarize all things in Jesus. So the knowledge that all things are to be summed up in Jesus as the plan of God becomes the fuel for recognizing our upward call from this moment on. And that upward call is going to begin the next subtopic when we meet the next time; because we're going to press

toward the mark in the Kingdom of God for His glory, for the world's well being, and for our maximum eternal reward which we're told to lay up in Heaven. The plan of God after all is to sum up all things in Jesus. Can He make it any simpler for us? We're to only do what He did. He did it, so we should also. So what are we to do? What are we to look at? Summed up in Jesus. What are we to listen to? My sheep hear His voice. We listen by summing up all things in Jesus. What are we to chew on and swallow? It's summed up in Jesus. What are we to stand on? It's summed up in Jesus. What are we to hide in, the cleft of the rock? It's all summed up in Jesus. Who are we to walk with? It's all summed up in Jesus. Who are we to dwell in? It's all summed up in Jesus. Who are we emulating? It's all summed up in Jesus. Who are we bearing witness of? It's all summed up in Jesus. Who are we giving glory to? It's all summed up in Jesus. How do we know love? It's all summed up in Jesus. What do we speak of? It's all summed up in Jesus. What do we preach? It's all summed up in Jesus. What do we boast of? It's all summed up in Jesus. So what is the plan of God for us as Christian witnesses to bear His image? To reveal His Son! And how do you do that? By summing up all things in Jesus to the point of capturing every thought in obedience to that plan of God.

So my time is up and I thank you for yours.