

# **PART 1**

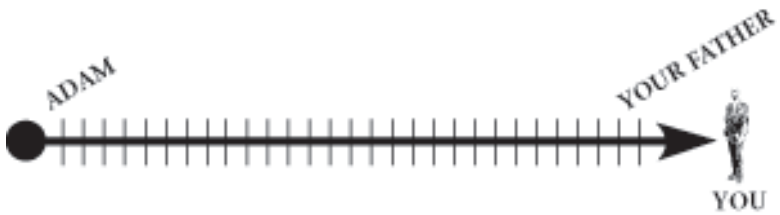
# **THE PRINCIPLE**

*Jesus, I my cross have taken, All to leave and follow Thee.  
Destitute, despised, forsaken, Thou from hence my all shalt be  
Perish every fond ambition, All I've sought or hoped or known  
Yet how rich is my condition: God and heaven are still my own.*

“ . . . It is finished . . . ” John 19:30

## CHAPTER 1

# THE CROSS: OUT OF ADAM INTO CHRIST



In order to comprehend the depths of the Cross it is important to understand the two Adams. The first Adam was the father of the whole human race. All of the human race is born “in Adam.” In other words, we are born in the line of Adam. The diagram above illustrates this. You proceeded from your parents, who in turn proceeded from their parents. This line may be traced all the way back to Adam. If your father had died at age three, you would not be here. The reason is that you were “in” your father and your existence depended upon his. In like manner, all are born in Adam. Our existence is the consequence of Adam’s existence. Therefore, we are in Adam and recipients of what he was by nature. Adam was not born a sinner, rather he was created in the image of God and had open fellowship with the Creator. Unhappily, by choice Adam disobeyed the Creator. The moment Adam sinned, he died spiritually as his fellowship with the Creator was broken. Since Adam chose to follow Satan’s lie instead of God’s Word, Adam became a sinner. Adam acquired a sinful nature. Consequently, all of Adam’s descendants receive his sinful nature.

“For as in Adam all die” (1 Cor. 15:22). The resulting con-

sequence of sin is death (separation from God). Because of man's inherent fallen nature, he is born into the world spiritually dead (separated from God). "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Rom. 5:12). The punishment for sin is death, and the only redemptive intervention is provided by Christ.

The last Adam, "Christ" (1 Cor. 15:45), took the first Adam to the Cross. The contaminated nature in Adam, and all in man that is contrary to God, was crucified with Christ. Therefore, eternal life is available to the man who will avail himself of Christ's finished work on the Cross. To be in Adam is death. To be in Christ is life. Man moves out of Adam into Christ by coming to the Cross and identifying with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection.

Every man by nature is like the first Adam, and like the devil, for the devil and the first fallen Adam were like one another. "Ye are of *your* father the devil" (John 8:44). All the children of the first Adam are the devil's children. And all the children of the other sort are like Jesus Christ, the last Adam; and when His image shall be perfected in them, then they shall be perfectly happy. "And as we have borne the image of the earthly, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly" (1 Cor. 15:49).<sup>1</sup>

Christ bore our sin in His own body on the tree (1 Pet. 2:24). The last Adam was provided as an alternative for each person born into the human family. His death on the Cross provided deliverance from the penalty, power, and ultimately, the presence of sin. He accomplished this by crucifying (putting to death) the acquired fallen nature. Now it is possible to move out of Adam into Christ. Praise God for the marvelous redemption procured at Calvary!

<sup>1</sup> Trail, Robert: Holiness, J.C. Ryle, page 461.