

The End of Strange

Commentary for February 1, 2014 — With God Nothing Is Strange

This month's article is "Oz Internet Radio Show, Part 2." It continues my interview by Paul Jamieson and James Westin in October 2013. More strange things are spoken about in this second part of the show. Read first the "[February 2014 Newsletter](#)."

In last month's "January 2014 Newsletter," I pointed out that several strange topics were discussed and that God's creation is strange — to us. In this Commentary, I want to demonstrate that in the future nothing will be "strange" to us. The word "strange" means anything that is unusual, extraordinary, curious, odd, estranged, or alienated to us. At present, we are equally strange, unusual, and eccentric to each other. This is partly because we are unique individuals, which is how God created each of us through Adam.

We will no longer be strange to each other after we are glorified to be like Christ. We shall all be **"in Christ"** in a glorified state. We shall be like He is:

"Beloved, now are we children of God, and it was not as yet manifested what we shall be. We are aware that, if He should be manifested, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him according as He is. And everyone who has this EXPECTATION in Him [in Christ] is purifying himself, according as He is pure."

• **1 John 3:2-3, Concordant Literal Version**

The word **"expectation"** in verse 3 is "hope" in the King James Version. While "hope" is an adequate translation, it has the connotation of wishing for the hoped for result rather than having a confident expectation. Our hope and **"expectation"** is secure because it is based on God's promise through Jesus Christ, evidenced by God's Holy Spirit within us.

"The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

• **Romans 8:16-17**

What does it mean, **"The Spirit itself bears witness"**? Simply this: God's Spirit within us, merging **"with our spirit"** identifies us as **"children of God."**

God's Holy Spirit is a "seal" by which we are marked: **"Who [God] has also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts"** (2 Corinthians 1:22). This Spirit of God is an extremely powerful but subtle influence upon us (infinitely more powerful than Satan's negative influence).

God's Holy Spirit is our "down payment," resident within us, on the glory which God will give to us in our spiritual resurrection to make us to **"be like Him"** (1 John 3:2). The apostle Paul writes, **"we desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end"** (Hebrews 6:11). Again, the word "hope" is better translated "expecta-

tion,” same Greek word as in 1 John 3:3 above. Why should we maintain that hope? It is because:

“... the earnest expectation of the creature [creation] waits for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who has subjected the same in hope [expectation].”

• Romans 8:19–20

“That we [Paul and his companions] should be to the praise of his [God’s] glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom you also trusted,

after that [1] you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also

after that [2] you believed, [then, as a result]

you were SEALED with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest [the surety, the assurance] of our inheritance [until when?] until the redemption of the purchased possession [purchased with Christ’s blood], unto the praise of his glory.”

• Ephesians 1:12–14

With God nothing is strange, but everything will be glorious and to His glory (Philippians 2:10–11). This may be hard to believe with all your present troubles and pains, but God Himself has made promises to us that only He can keep and only He and Christ understand at this present time. We cannot possibly comprehend what it will be like when God becomes all in all.

“(Yet now Christ has been roused from among the dead, the Firstfruit of those who are reposing. For since, in fact, through a man came death, through a Man, also, comes the resurrection of the dead. ...

Now, whenever all may be subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also shall be subjected to Him Who subjects all to Him, that God may be All in all.)”

**• 1 Corinthians 15:20–21, 28
Concordant Literal Version**

We are not given an explanation of what it means for God the Father to be **“All in all.”** We are not given a preview or even a hint. This is likely because in our fleshly state we cannot possibly understand the glory that God has in store for us (Isaiah 64:4; 1 Corinthians 2:9). It will be glorious for all of God’s children and creation, but it will no longer be strange. You and I and every human being (past, present, and future) are part of God’s achievement of being **“all in all”** (1 Corinthians 12:6; Ephesians 1:23; Colossians 3:11).

I hope you enjoy reading the transcript of the “Oz Internet Radio Show, Part 2” which deals with strange things in God’s creation and in life. Our individual lives and future may be strange for a while longer, but after our death and (seemingly) immediate resurrection to glory with Christ, things will be wondrous and strange as we learn to cope with our new spiritual body and environment. After that, never again will anything be strange to any of us.

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