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First... what is it?

Everybody seeks to be happy, and at the end of all the festivity and merriment of the Lunar New Year, we must finally ask ourselves if we are truly happy. True happiness is a supreme joy given by God, a joy that is independent of one's circumstances, a joy that comes about, not because of the first man, but because of the last Adam.

'First' (先)

The word 'first' (先) comprises three characters, an iconographic record of the first man.

先 = ' + 土 + 儿
first life dust man

The First Man

Genesis 2:7 says, 'And the LORD God formed *man* of the *dust* of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of *life*; and man became a living soul.' Because God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul, Adam was the *first* man. This historic fact is seen in the word 'first.'

The First Man and the Last Adam

Adam was the first man. But thank God that there is the second man. Thank God that there is the last Adam - the Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:45, 47 says, '... The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit ... The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.' Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 15:45 speak of the first man Adam and the last Adam. The first man was made a living soul. He had a soul which lived. That was how he was made. But his Fall brought all mankind into an estate of sin and misery.¹ The Bible says that the wages of sin is death. There awaits for man physical death, and in the eternity to come another death which was called the 'second death,' which is the separation of body, soul, and spirit from God forever - in a place of everlasting torture.²

Happiness in the Last Adam!

But we are also told in 1 Corinthians 15:45 that the last Adam was made or became a quickening spirit. His people would receive the benefit of quickening. Christ would be made to them a quickening spirit, possessing the right to give them eternal life and to impart this. He came to bring life where death had tragically reigned. We were quickened unto God. He willingly laid down His life for sinful men such as us. He gives this blessed hope to all that trust in Him: that as He rose from the dead, so shall we. Hear Christ's words of eternal life.

And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.
(John 6:39-40)

Christ has fulfilled the justice of God on our behalf by paying the penalty for sin with His blood. We cannot add to His perfect work. All you have to do is to tell Him that you trust Him, saying, 'Thank you, Jesus, for dying for me. I am ready to accept you as my Savior.' If you will pray that prayer, He will give you eternal life with Him in heaven.³

Red for Happiness!

This red packet contains no money but something far more valuable - the message of salvation. The red of the packet may be likened to the crimson blood of Christ, shed to purchase the eternal happiness of sinners.

May you be a new creature, with a new life in Christ this Lunar New Year!

Blessed Lunar New Year

1. *Romans 5:12*

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:

2. *Revelation 20:13-15*

And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

3. *John 3:16-18*

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

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