Life in the Son

A Journal of Grace and the In-Christ Message

<u>Table of</u> <u>Contents</u>

Editorial	З
The Mystery of the Blood By Frank Stigal I	4
"Sir, We Would See Jesus" (John 12:21)	4
By Ed Gardner	6
Our Daily Living in Christ, Pt 2	
By Warren Litzman	8
The Benefits of Keeping the Law	; 12
Jesus: See Me and Yo See the Father, Religion: See Me and You See Jesus By Louis Downie	13
Iraq in the Bible	18
Modern Prison Epistle	20
CHRIST BELIEVES IN Y By SANDY PRETORIUS	

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Life in the Son

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> Founder/Editor: Warren Litzman Executive Editor: Robbie Litzman Assistant Editor: Teresa Ferraro

PRODUCTION OFFICES

Manager: Robbie Litzman P.O. Box 170307, Dallas, Texas 75217-0307 Phone (214)391-0488, Fax (214)391-5035 Website: www.christ-life.org

Email: litzman@christ-life.org

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AFRICA

Denise Hayes 27-41-3744741 lanceh@iafrica.com Port Elizabeth, Rep. of South Africa AUSTRALIA Jenny Asibal clf_australia@optusnet.c om.au Preston, Victoria 3072 Australia ENGLAND Lance and Sharon Hayes lance_hayes1@msn.com 07906688667 GERMANY

Dr. Mark Asante masante@excite.com Benzenberg Str. 20 40219 Düsseldorf Germany HARARE, ZIMBABWE Margaret Fleming P O Box 66526 Kopje Harare, Zimbabwe

MaLawi Lovemore Kadam'manja PO Box 40680 Kanengo Lilongwe 4 Malawi

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS/ASIA Roger Bodary rbodary@hotmail.com Bangladesh USA PRISON MINISTRY Mike and Debbie Robinson Christ-life Fellowship P.O. Box 170307 Dallas, Texas 75217-0307

Editorial The Greater Commission

One of the most difficult decisions the Father gives His children to make is what they will do with their lives. Religion has made this decision for the believer according to its programs and agendas. The Christ-life believer will not take such direction from outsiders because that would be contrary to the leading of the Christ that is in them.

Since the original twelve apostles did not have Christ in them, the Lord gave them explicit directions as to what they were to do with their lives (Matt. 5:5–42; Mark 16: 15–18; Luke 24:46–49; Acts 1:8).

Of course, these apostles were not able to complete their commission because Israel rejected Christ as the Messiah. The kingdom message was set aside (Acts 28:28), but many in religion felt that the Church should pick up where they left off.

This, of course, was not scriptural for two reasons. One, in each stated instance, the commission was given only to the twelve, and for the Church to pick it up would not fit the agenda of the Church. There is no Scripture giving the apostles' commission to the Church. The apostles' commission was based on law; the Church's message is based on grace.

Second, the commission Christ gave to the twelve was to go only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Again, this would not fit the agenda of the Church. Nevertheless, the modern church has taken this commission, given to the twelve apostles, and has done well in reaching the world with their gospel. It is a fact that the Father will bless His children at any point they attempt to help others, but the result has been believers claiming a commission that doesn't belong to them. It has caused multitudes in the Church to never hear the true gospel of grace through Christ in the believer. Furthermore, not only do great numbers of believers not know Christ lives in them, but to make what religion calls the Great Commission work, the believer has been put under man's law. This law is contrary to the outworking of the Christ who lives in them.

For sometime I have wrestled with this issue. Most of my life has been governed by what we called the Great Commission. That, in fact, was all I knew. Now,



according to the revelation of Christ in me, I see this commission has given way to another commission given to us by Apostle Paul, who received it directly from the resurrected Christ. This commission is strictly for those who know Christ lives in them, to both Jew and Gentile, whosoever will accept it. It is a message of God's grace to an unbelieving world.

There are innumerable places in Paul's epistles where parts of the commission to the born-again is given, but I have not found any place where it is tied together as completely as in 2 Corinthians 5:14–21. It is in these Scriptures that I see at least seven important points that the bornagain believer can be dedicated to. It is to be noted that there is no law in the doing of these things, but rather by God's grace these truths will flow out of the believer from the Christ who is in him. Paul says these are the things we can and will do to fulfill our great commission.

1. We are constrained by the love of Christ. We don't serve our Father any longer by self-effort or duty (v. 14).

THE MYSTERY OF THE BLOOD

By Frank Stigall

YOU HAD THE DISEASE OF SIN, BUT YOU WERE NOT THE ONE WHO COMMITTED THE CRIME.

The Old Testament can give us some indication of how God would use the blood of Christ. Referring to the typology in the Old Testament will give us some idea how the blood of the lamb and scapegoats was used. Each animal was carefully examined and had to be without a blemish to be used for an offering.

The lamb was not the sin-offering, but rather an offering for deliverance. Later, the lamb was used in the celebration of the historical Passover in Egypt. It was used in the ritual for the remembrance of the deliverance from Egypt's bondage and slavery. The real Passover needed to be kept only once.

Keeping with the idea that only one sacrifice was needed to end all sacrifices, they never celebrated the Passover in Egypt the same way again. They had reduced it to a Holy Day. Today we think of it as a religious holiday.

The day of Passover abounded with rituals and remembrance of the deliverance from Egypt. It compares with communion that the Church celebrates today with the symbols of bread and wine. Communion also relates to Passover as it is done in remembrance of the blood and body of Jesus who is our Passover.

The blood at the first Passover had a different purpose than it did on the day of Atonement. In Egypt, they painted the blood of the Passover lamb on the doorpost. This kept Israel safe in their homes behind the blood. When the death angel saw the blood, he would pass over the house and not enter. They never again painted on the doorpost with blood in the promise land. Of course this symbolized that just one application of blood was enough to separate Israel from death, bondage and slavery. Likewise the blood of God's Lamb was needed only once to deliver all mankind on the face of the Earth.

"And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again" (2 Cor. 5:15).

Divided the Blood

Much confusion arises about the blood of Jesus in the New Testament. Some of this confusion comes about because we do not understand the differences in the purpose of the blood of the lamb from that of the blood of the scapegoats in the Old Testament. Each had its own special use.

Passover blood was for Israel to paint on their doorpost in Egypt. As near as I can tell, the blood of the lamb was not used again in the same manner as it was in Egypt. Passover was the beginning of months for Israel or the beginning of the spiritual New Year. It was not the turning over a new leaf, but a completely new lifestyle. They were removed from Egypt by divine intervention, out from under the bondage and slavery of Egypt, and they have never returned.

For Atonement the blood of the scapegoat was handled by a priest and taken into the Holy of Holies each year for a sin offering (Lev. 16:15–16). However both offerings of blood, Passover and Atonement, were represented in Jesus.

The sacrifice of the scapegoats on the day of Atonement was to atone for sins Israel committed during the year. God never received any satisfaction from the offering of animal sacrifices, as they, too, were indirectly affected by the fall and needed deliverance like the rest of us. *"For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now"* (Rom. 8:22).

"I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of the goats" (Isa. 1:11). Look at what Jesus did as our great High Priest. He took His own blood into the throne room of God and presented it to the Father. Why was this acceptable? It was the blood of God. In fact, Scripture says, "God was in Christ" (2 Cor. 5:19). The Father could not deny Himself the acceptance of this sacrifice, and another sacrifice will never be needed.

Why is all that so important? God needed a Son that was as perfect as He. This Son will replace the first Adam who sinned. From this Son, He can start a new race of people that will be reborn without a trace of sin. Christ, as the Lamb of God, will be our spiritual food. His blood will continually wash away personal sin as we walk in the light.

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

Yes, the blood of the Lamb is also for sin after the spiritual birthing has been received.

Blood for Reconciliation

Before salvation, the blood is for reconciliation. Reconciliation can be thought of in the terminology of a bank account. It takes two sets of figures to balance everything. A check has been written from the bank of Heaven by the Father. This check is then given to every person born in this world. It is in your possession, and the next step is up to you. This account can never be completely reconciled unless the person holding the check signs it, cashes it and receives the face value of the check. It is then returned to the Father and the account is completely reconciled. The transaction is complete, and you possess the heavenly gift of life by cashing in the check. You are not asked to do a thing, just except the payment so the account can be completely reconciled.

Eradicating the Original Sin by the Blood

First His blood was for eradicating the Original Sin. This is a stumbling stone in religion. Some cannot believe the Original Sin is gone, so they keep asking forgiveness for something that no longer exists. If salvation were as simple as vocalizing regret for your sins, then why did Jesus need to die? For nearly 4,000 years, in the Old Testament, people asked for forgiveness of their sins, and that did not produce one born-again person. The whole idea of the Cross was not for something that you could do, but something the Father needed to do.

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live: yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God. who loved me. and gave himself for me" (Gal. 2:20).

(Continued on page 16.)

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During the nineteen centuries of this gospel age, few have seen Jesus in a true spiritual sense. Some think they have seen Jesus, but have only known Him after the flesh—as a great moral leader and teacher and as a particularly bright specimen of the human race, a noble pattern to copy. Others, belonging to orthodox Christian communities, see Jesus as God, who came to Earth to show men how to suffer and die as the second person of the Trinity. But if these people had been introduced to Jesus, they would not have recognized Him because they did not really know Him.

When Jesus' disciples first found Him, they ran to the others proclaiming

"SIR, WE WOULD SEE JESUS" (JOHN 12:21)

By Ed Gardner

GOOD NEWS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER ACCEPTED JESUS AS THEIR LIFE.

that they had found Him. The others came to see for themselves, and believed.

"Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith. Behold the Lamb of God! And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus...One of the two that heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first findeth his own brother, Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ" (John 1:35-37, 40-41).

John's disciples said: "Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?" (Matt. 11:3).

Jesus, a carpenter's son, was not received by *"His own people,"* the Scriptures say in John 1:11. He came unto His own (Israel), and His own received Him not.

All through the ages, since Jesus of Nazareth walked the Earth, believers have had to be shown the real Christ. But the Scriptures are the main witness of who Jesus was and is. I, like many others before me, had to have Jesus presented to me. I was offered an opportunity to accept Him and His shed Blood. He did not reject me, but accepted me into the Beloved. I was not saved before that time, but when I was offered to "receive more of Christ," I accepted the invitation.

The Greeks also asked to "See Jesus." Their business was to not only see His face, that they might be able to say when they went home that they had seen the one who was so much talked of, (it is probable they had already seen Him when He appeared publicly); but they wanted some free conversation time with Him. They wanted to be taught by Him. But, it was not an easy thing to find Him at leisure as He was busy with His public ministry at the time. They wanted to be admitted into His presence, to

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 15.)

We pray our Father will draw you into a more intimate love with Him this year as you learn Christ, His Son, in you.

Merry Christmas! Love, Robbie and Warren

OUR DAILY LIVING

Part 2

By Warren Litzman

Sinners Are Never To Be Reformed

There is but one issue in this Dispensation of Grace between God and the unregenerate man. That issue is that every man must believe on the Lord Jesus Christ (be born again) in order to be saved. There is never an issue of the character or the conduct of a sinner before he believed on the Lord Jesus Christ. In modem religion, men moralize among themselves and establish their self-governments on principles of right conduct. But it is never God's purpose to reform sinners.

The only way the Word of God can possibly work in the life of a human being is by that person being rightly related to the Father by the birthing. If it could ever be proven that God has made the slightest moral appeal to the unregenerate, other than that which is implied in the Gospels—that they must first believe on the Lord Jesus Christ-then the whole program of God is in vain. If this were so, the works of men would become meritorious, and thereby, there would be a third classification of humanity created, which is somewhere between those who are



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yet under sin and those who are in Christ. In this age, such an intermediate group of people is not possible. The only group of people God's Word speaks to today are those of the new creation race who have become such by being birthed by another father. If there were another class of people, they would not be saved, for they would not be a part of the Christ-life. Men are either lost and condemned under sin or wholly and eternally saved by Christ.

The common practice of presenting the great standards of Christian living indiscriminately to mixed congregations by preaching, and to people in general, through public print or television, is a tragedy of infinite proportions. Notoriously, the socalled "Christian Church" of this day constantly presents messages declaring that, if we are good, God will bless us and if we believe, we will get a miracle-without the slightest teaching of truth that men must be born again to be pleasing to God.

Always, We Must Make An Appeal to Sinners

If the unsaved are present when the teachings of the Christ-life are discussed, there should be a gospel appeal made by which the unsaved are classified and excluded from any share in those teachings. If we allow those who are unconverted— not yet born again—to participate in the things of Christ, we have not taught the Gospel, but have merely presented a philosophy. Sinners must be appealed to as sinners, and they must believe on the Lord Jesus Christ; otherwise, we are not involved in the new creation life, but rather are seeking a human reformation. There can be no reformation on the sinner's part before he seeks regeneration. Nothing is more wholesome for the unconverted than to be lovingly reminded that they, according to the Word of God, have no part in the Christian life and that they are "shut up" until they accept Christ as their life.

There will be souls saved and believers birthed if we are sure to follow the continued clear-cut preaching of the Word in its right application to both the saved and the unsaved. It is alarming to the unsaved to be warned that they are

that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; that you may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; being filled with the fruits righteousness 0f which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of *God*" (Phil. 1:9–11).

"And this I pray,

lost until they receive Christ, but such faithful preaching, being the truth of God, is the only preaching the Holy Spirit can use to draw the sinner.

So often people say, "I have great difficulty coming into this kind of salvation," or "I have great difficulty understanding the truths of the Christ-life." Before we go into great detail to solve their problem, it must be immediately made clear that until one is born again-birthed of our heavenly Father-he cannot possibly have an understanding of the final gospel Christ gave to Paul. It is a high crime against Heaven when men continually and purposely urge moral betterment on the unsaved in lieu of the new creation race gospel.

Beware of the Erroneous Gospel

Paul does not hesitate to speak against such. The unrevoked anathema of God rests upon such preaching. Galatians 1:8–9 says:

"But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."

I realize, of course, that there is a possibility that someone, through carelessness or ignorance, whose intentions are good, may make some fatal error in presenting God's truth. We see this again and again in modern Christianity. How burdened our hearts become as we hear preachers and teachers who have not given themselves to knowing God's Word nor yielded themselves to the Holy Spirit, whose revelation of the Christ in them is imperative to truth. We see, as never before, laziness and disconcern among those who deliver the priceless truth of the Gospel. It does painstaking take learning, effort, and desire to know what God says in His Word well enough to make it known to others. It is for this reason that the Father is raising up a force of people in these last days who have given themselves, collectively, to wilderness experiences, to training by the Spirit and to a long period of waiting upon God to know Him. These will go forth bearing the precious seed and causing many to know Christ as their life.

Satan could have no greater impact than working through one who, in ignorance, preaches the Gospel or even misstates what is the truth of the Gospel. The high crime of dealing damnation to the souls of men in the name of Jesus is a thousand-fold greater crime than any evil that could be mentioned.

Sinners are to be saved by a birthing. It is Satan's device to complicate this simple fact with the lesser issues of Christian living. Thus, so many have ignored the necessity of a birthing and have plucked out Scriptures to say, Do this to be a Christian, or Don't do that to be a Christian, to not only misstate the truth but also to assist in damning souls.

The Two-fold Danger

According to the Scriptures, Christians are confronted with a twofold danger. On the one hand, they may go the way of the irresponsible careless sin of Gentiles; or on the other hand, they may go into the legality of the Jews. They may walk as do Gentiles, or they may fall from grace. They are warned against both mistakes. The doctrines of the Christ-life may be so perverted that, while there is a holy horror of slipping into careless sin, it is deemed most pious to assume the cursing burden of the law. All the years I have preached, I have witnessed this calamity. There have always been those who have been so anxious to keep people walking in the light of their own particular interpretation of the Scriptures that they did nothing but place a heavier burden upon the believer-the burden of law.

The teachings of the Christ-life give equal warning against the sin of turning either the way of the Gentiles or the way of the Jews. A believer who seeks only to walk in the will of God will hear what Christ has to say to him by the Holy Spirit. His interest will be neither toward sin nor to personal improvement, but he will always be drawn to the Christ within him as his life. By learning SINNERS MUST BE APPEALED TO AS SINNERS, AND THEY MUST BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST; OTHERWISE, WE ARE NOT INVOLVED IN THE NEW CREATION LIFE, BUT RATHER ARE SEEKING A HUMAN REFORMATION. THE NEW TESTAMENT IS VERY PRONOUNCED THAT IN CHRIST THERE IS NO JEW OR GENTILE. THUS, TO WALK AS A JEW OR A GENTILE—EVEN IN PERFECT SPIRITUAL R E LATIONSHIP— WOULD FALL SHORT OF GOD'S INTENTION. Christ within him, he will walk in the Christ-life as God intended. The New Testament is very pronounced that in Christ there is no Jew or Gentile. Thus, to walk as a Jew or a Gentile—even in perfect spiritual relationship would fall short of God's intention. Concerning this, there are four areas of thought to be considered.

1. The Christian's daily life is to be directed only as the Holy Spirit teaches him. The Holy Spirit was sent to people on the Day of Pentecost primarily to teach them that they were now in Christ and Christ was in them (John 14:20). The purpose of the Holy Spirit is to bring the believer into union with the Christ within him so that the very nature of God birthed in him might flow out of him in daily action and activity.

The Christ-life is the only life the Father accepts because it is the only thing akin to His nature. The New Testament, while filled with many different teachings, is never confused by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit never contemplates any observance of the law. Through the death of Christ, the law is not only disannulled, but as a rule of life is never mentioned or included in the teachings of the Christ-life. It is, in fact, definitely excluded.

The believer is to walk or daily live by a rule, and by that rule there is never an adaptation of the law (Gal. 6:16; Phil. 3:16). This important fact should be carefully verified when one is reading any of the epistles. It would be impossible here to refer to the many passages of Scripture which speak of who the believer is without the slightest reference to the law or to the keeping of the law. For instance, Ephesians 2:10 says:

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

Romans 14:17–19 says: "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men. Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another."

Philippians 1:9–11 says: "And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; that you may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God."

On and on could go our listing of verses which show that never, in the rule given to the Christ-life believer, is law intended. Other such verses to be searched are: Acts 15:28–29; 21:25; Romans 3:21; 10:4; 13:14; Galatians 2:4–5; 5:1, 5–6; 6:14–16; Philippians 4:8–9; and so forth.

By these passages selected from the whole body of New Testament teaching concerning the believer's walk in Christ, it is seen that the teachings of the Christ-life do not include the precepts of the law as such, but literally exclude those precepts. However, in this, no vital principle contained in the law is abandoned.

It will be observed that these principles of the law are carried forward and are restated in the teachings of grace, not as law but as principles which are revised, adapted and newly incorporated in Christ, by Christ, who now lives in the believer. In fact they are love commands.

2. The law teaching is separated from the grace teachings of Christ. There has been nothing more devastating to Christianity than the admixture of the principles of law and grace seen from the very teachings of Christ. Here we want to make it plain that the teachings of Christ, which have to do with sinners who must be born again, are totally separated from the teaching of the law in the life of Jesus of Nazareth. For instance, are Christians to keep the law as the rule of their conduct, either because of a command from Christ or because of the example of Christ? No light

> (Continued on page 22.) Life in the Son



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THE BENEFITS OF KEEPING THE LAW

Anonymous

Over ninety percent of born-again Christians are still under some aspect of Moses' Law. Many do not even know or realize that they are still under the law. Anyone under any part of the law in their daily living deny grace to that extent. Consider what just one of Paul's epistles has to say about the benefits derived from preaching, teaching and keeping the Law in this Dispensation of Grace:

1. It makes you accursed (Gal. 1:8–9).

2. It pleases men, not God (Gal. 1:10).

3. It destroys the testimony of the *"faith of Christ"* (Gal. 1:23; 2:16; 3:22-23; Col. 2:10, 13).

4. It brings people into bondage and takes away their freedom (Gal. 2:4; 5:1).

5. It does not teach "the truth of the gospel" (Gal. 2:5, cf. Acts 20:24).

6. It carries you away with *"dissimulation"* (i.e. deceit, hypocrisy (Gal. 2:13).

7. It does not make you walk uprightly (Gal. 2:14).

8. You make yourself and the Lord Jesus Christ "min-

isters of sin" (Gal. 2:17).9. You become a transgressor (Gal. 2:18).

10. You frustrate the grace of God (Gal. 2:21).

11. You become foolish and bewitched (Gal. 3:1).

12. You are under a curse because you cannot/do not keep all of the law (Gal. 3:10; cf. James 2:10).

13. You are not justified (Gal. 3:11).

14. It is not of faith (Gal. 3:12).

15. It has absolutely nothing to do with the promise of eternal life (Gal. 3:17–18).

16. It cannot give you righteousness (Gal. 3:21).

17. It keeps you as a child and does not allow you to grow (Gal. 3:24; 4:1–3; cf. 1 Cor. 13:11).

18. You return to the weak and beggarly elements (Gal. 4:9).

19. Paul becomes your enemy (Gal. 4:16).

20. You do not understand the law yourself (Gal. 4:20–21).

21. You persecute the righteous (Gal. 4:29).

22. Christ means nothing to you because you are fall-

en from grace (Gal. 5:4). 23. You are not obeying

the "present truth" (Gal. 5:7; cf. 2 Peter 1:12).

24. You fulfill the "lusts of the flesh" (Gal. 5:13, 16).

25. You are not "led of the Spirit" (Gal. 5:18).

26. You (mistakenly) have a high opinion of yourself (Gal. 6:3–4).

27. You are deceived and teach deception (Gal. 6:7).

28. You mock God (Gal. 6:7).

29. You sow "to the flesh" and will "reap corruption" (Gal. 6:8).

30. Law-keepers are show-offs, always desiring to "*make a fair show in the flesh*" (Gal. 6:12).

31. Law keepers are not partakers of the "persecution" of the preaching of the Cross (Gal. 6:12; 5:11).

32. Law-keepers do not keep the law themselves but rather glory in another's flesh (Gal. 6:13).

33. Law-keepers want you to be just like them (Gal. 6:13).

34. Law-keepers cause nothing but *"trouble"* (Gal. 6:17). ₽

JESUS: SEE ME AND YOU SEE THE FATHER. RELIGION: SEE ME AND YOU SEE JESUS.

By Louis Downie

Philip said, "Show us the Father," and Jesus replied, "He that hath seen me, hath seen the Father" (John 14:8–9).

Philip had walked with Jesus, touched Him, heard Him speak, saw miracles He did and yet he could not see who Jesus was revealing to him. "Have I have been so long a time with you, and yet hast thou not know me, Philip...?" (John 14:10).

Philip could not see the true Christ, as he was still living in the sense realm. All that was revealed to him, he grasped only through his senses. The only one he could see was Jesus of Nazareth, who came to fulfill the law, and yet, in spite of all that Jesus was to him, he could not see Christ, the Son of God, in all His fullness and glory.

The Word of God says that the "natural man receiveth not the things of God" (1 Cor. 2:14). That is why Philip could not see Christ in Jesus, as he could only see God if the Father was revealed to him. "But God has revealed them unto us by his Spirit for the Spirit searched all things, ye the deep things of God" (1 Cor. 2:10).

Even to Peter, in Matthew 16:17, Jesus said: "Blessed art thou Simon Barjona, for flesh and blood [natural, sense realm] hath not revealed it unto you, but my Father which is in heaven."

No man could see the Father through the natural eyes of one's understanding, but only through the revelation of the Holy Spirit through Christ. Paul wrote to the Corinthian believers in 2 Corinthians 5:16:

"Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh, yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet NOW henceforth know we him no more."

Saul also knew Christ after the flesh, and yet in this knowing he tried to kill the Jesus who lived in lives of the people by bringing them to the magistrate at that time. Is it not possible that Christians who are still



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PEOPLE CAN SEE THE CHRIST IS LIV-ING IN PEOPLE. IT IS THEN THAT OUR DEEDS, WORDS, ACTIONS AND REAC-TIONS WILL BE CHRIST TO THE PEO-PLE SO THAT THEY CAN TURN TO GOD FOR SALVATION. living lawfully, legalistically before their Father, cannot know the true Christ that Paul speaks about in Philippians 3:10:

"That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto His death?"

The Christ Paul knows, and wants to know, is the Christ risen from the grave, having conquered Satan, sin, the world, self and the power of the law, the grave and death, who is NOW living in his body.

In Acts chapters 3 and 4, when Peter and John were going to the temple at the hour of prayer, they saw a man who was lame from his mothers womb and said to him, "Look on us."

Paul, writing 1 to Corinthian believers. "Wherefore I beseech you, be *ye followers of me!"* Writing to the church at Philipi, he wrote, "Brethren, be ye followers of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an example" (Phil: 3:17). To Corinth, he wrote, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ" (1 Cor 11:1).

Why is it that Paul and Peter could say "Look on us" and "Follow me"? Simply because their spiritual eyes were opened to the knowledge of the risen Christ who was birthed into their natures and that Christ had become their only life as He was in them and they in Him (John 14:20). They did not live anymore, as they were crucified in and with Him, and the life they now lived was Christ! Paul lived a life that was crucified (Gal. 2:20), a life that Christ in him was living. It was not him who was living, but Christ risen living in him. Paul only had to deal with his mind as he realized there was still conflict between the "new heart and the old head." That is why he realized, too, that his mind needed to be renewed. In other words, his mind had to be brought in line with the life of Christ in Him. His mind still had to be transformed by the Holy Spirit; it was through his mind that the love of God and the nature of Christ in him was reflected. His thoughts had to be submitted to the Word of God so that his emotions, reasoning and living would manifest the nature of Christ through him.

People can see Christ is living in people. It is then that our deeds, words, actions and reactions will be Christ to the people so that they can turn to God for salvation. As Paul says: *"We are ministers of life."* What life? Christ in us as us! The fruit the believer bears by the Holy Spirit is the fruit the natural man eats from our lives.

The natural man, unsaved, cannot read and understand the Word of God, lest it be revealed to him, but he can read the life of Christ's love in the believer, who is the Father's light and salt on the Earth, through whom the grace and mind of God is revealed and reflected by the Holy Spirit.

John says in 1 John 4:17: "Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgement: because as He is, so are we in this world." "No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelled in us and his love is perfected in us" (v. 12).

"Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God; and every one that loveth, is born of God and KNOWETH GOD" (v. 7). "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (v. 4). "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not unto men" (Col. 3:23).

"Forbearing one another and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any, even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye" (Col. 3:13).

It is in our knowing that Christ is our life that we can forgive, accept and love with the life, love and light of Christ, who is in us as us. Like Paul, "Be ye followers of me." We as believers can be Christ to others so that men can see Christ in us. The "seeing Christ in us" is not a life of works or good deeds, but a life of being Christ spontaneously to others as vessels of His love.

The auto mechanic is a Christ to his clients. The

(Continued on page 23.) Life in the Son

(SIR-CONT. FROM P. 6)

have some discourse and conversation with Him. It was not just the bare sight of His person they wanted, but the enjoyment of His company, if only for a little while. They were asking this favor of having a moment of spiritual insight with Christ, enjoying the glories of His person, and the fullness of His grace, to have communion and fellowship with Him. It was all in all to them; no object so delightful and satisfying to them as He. They wanted to receive something from Him so as to be more like Him.

They could also be saying, Sir, we understand the Jews are rejecting Jesus, but we want to accept Him. We want to hear Him; we want to trust in Him, believe in Him and be saved.

Notice, they were not saying, We would like to see the beautiful temple, or We would like to have an audience with the high priest, Caiaphas.

Many have come to a church just to see a beautiful building or hear the choir or look at stained glass windows. There are many beautiful cathedrals, but many of them, even though they are beautiful, are empty of people seeking Christ. Let us hope they also will come, saying, "Sir, we would see Jesus."

These Greeks were begging to see Jesus. In the Greek language, the verb means to beg continually, not just a one-time action. Have you done that, my friend? Have you begged, the Holy Spirit, Please show me Jesus? Why did these people want to see Jesus? Because they knew Jesus alone could help them. Money could not help them. Fame could not help them. Only Jesus could help them.



Jesus asked His disciples about who He was in Matthew 16:15–17:

"He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh blood hath and not revealed it unto thee, but mv Father which is in heaven."

Saul of Tarsus was drawn by Christ, and he came also, saying, "Lord, what do you want me to do?" (Acts 9:6). I hope that if you have been drawn to Christ, today you will cry from your heart, Sir, I want to see Jesus! Come to him, willingly, gladly saying, I surrender all.

"Sir, we would see Jesus," was the cry of the Greeks. If this is your cry as well, I pray that you will pray to God to draw you to Himself, repent of your sins, and trust in Him who died so that you may live. Only Jesus alone saves you from your sins.

Where is Jesus today? Certainly He is, in His resurrected body, seated at the right hand of God our Father. But when we are born again, our heavenly Father places us into Christ, and He also places Christ into us. How can we know this? How can we see Him in us? LOOK IN THE MIRROR MY FRIEND!

"To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27).

If you have been born again, then Christ has been placed in you. If we want to see Christ in others, then we must first see Christ in ourselves! Pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal this Christ who lives inside each and every believer. Paul said, *"When it pleased God...to reveal His Son in me....* (Gal. 1:15–16.) May God our Father bless you and keep you, until Christ is revealed in every believer! ♥ IT IS IN OUR KNOWING THAT CHRIST IS OUR LIFE THAT WE CAN FORGIVE, ACCEPT AND LOVE WITH THE LIFE, LOVE AND LIGHT OF CHRIST, WHO IS IN US AS US. (Mystery-cont. from p. 5)

of Forgiveness the Original Sin was not a choice offered to you; it has been taken care of at the Cross. What you need to do is except that finished work. This deliverance from the Original Sin required a violent battle that only God could fight. The price was His only Son, which must have ripped at the heart of God. He was sold in the world among men for thirty pieces of silver, the price of a slave. In Heaven, He was the most priceless possession. It is with this price that you were bought. Therefore, you are not your own. You had no part in this. It was all God's doing.

"For ye are bought with a price. therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." (1 Cor. 6:20).

So God conquers all. He

all

THE BODY AND SOUL MAKE UP THE FLESH. completely removed THESE PARTS ARE NOT CHANGED WHEN YOU ARE BORN AGAIN. THEREFORE, THEY NEED TO BE ATTENDED TO IN YOUR EARTHLY JOURNEY, WHICH I CALL THE SCHOOL-HOUSE.

traces of what happened in the Garden of Eden. So now tell me, how are you going to ask forgiveness for what has already been removed by the Cross? You cannot. You can and should accept the provision of the Cross provided freely to you. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation. We receive the Savior because we accept Him. Then after being born again, we receive forgiveness of our personal sins by His blood.

Without being born again, you cannot repent of personal sin. You are still dead to God. It was not your personal sin that was sending you to Hell. It was the

Original Sin, and you did not have anything to do with it. Adam made that choice for you, and Hell became yours innately. Likewise, the last Adam, Christ, made a choice for you to have eternal life. It also comes about innately by being born again.

Religion has made salvation extremely complicated, and a little spooky, not willing to give the freedom of salvation without some bondage connected to it. The stumbling stone in religion is that the gospel has not been truly preached and Jesus is crucified afresh ever Sunday.

"If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame." (Heb. 6:6).

Blood for Continual Cleansing

Then after salvation, the blood is for continual cleansing and purifying of our soul and body for the rest of our earthly life. Sin always crops up, so there is always a need for cleansing. Thus, the blood of Jesus is applied for cleansing. First John 1:7 was written to the saint, not to the sinner. The old proverb is true; first you catch your fish, and then you clean them.

This is the reason you find yourself in the Father's schoolhouse. It is not because you need to be born again, rather it is because you are born again. You are

clean in spirit, but not in body or soul.

"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God" (1 John 3:9).

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." (1 John 1:8).

These two Scriptures seem to counter each other but they do not. First John 3:9 is referring to spirit, and it is in your spirit where Christ lives in you. Therefore, Christ is your life. In your spirit is where the seed of God is. So, from your Christ-Spirit you can never sin. Therefore, in Spirit you will always stand perfect before the Father.

The body and soul make up the flesh. These parts are not changed when you are born again. Therefore, they need to be attended to in your earthly journey, which I call the schoolhouse. Consequently, He gave us 1 John 1:7, a verse to cover all eventualities of body and soul sinning. Remember, when you are saved you can never commit the Original Sin, Adam's sin, again.

Tasting of the Lamb

What it boils down to is the blood of Jesus never loses its power. It is always at work, first for the Original Sin then for the continual cleansing of the saint. It works first for us in our Passover experience, which compares with our

new birth. That is freedom from slavery and bondage.

It is interesting to note that God did not deal with the sins of Israel while they were in Egypt. Repentance was not required for freedom. All they did was paint their doorposts and eat the lamb, and they left Egypt with the taste of the lamb still in their mouths.

It was not until they reached Sinai fifty days later that God started to deal with the sin problem. Does that seem a little strange? Especially in view of some teaching today that says you must repent before God can do anything with you.

You might as well know the truth now. Sinners repenting while in Egypt (the world) is not what Israel needed. What they needed was a sacrifice for deliverance from this bondage and slavery. Wouldn't you know it, this is exactly what they received. Because thev accepted this sacrifice, they now belonged to God. At this point, God can begin working on their personal sins.

This is exactly what the Father did for the whole world. He provided the sacrifice and asked that we accept it. The acceptance of this sacrifice makes us His children. It is from this point on that the Father deals with us as His children. He keeps delivering us from our personal sins, and He reveals Himself to us through His Holy Spirit. Each sin we find our self repenting of is an adjustment in our learning program. Therefore, our sins can become a tool to point us in the right direction. The Father uses Satan in this manner, I don't think Satan likes it, but he cannot do anything about it.

If simple repentance could save you, then why did we need a Savior? Israel repented often, but that did not make any of them born again. Most in religion do not know when they are dealing with the Original Sin. It's not something you



can repent of because it was not your fault. You had the disease of sin, but you were not the one that committed the crime. Repentance is not the answer. The cure for the disease is found in Jesus. He has become the Healer of this disaster committed by Adam in Eden. This act of healing can be thought of much like a doctor who gives you a shot for a disease that is taking your life. Dead men can't repent of the Original Sin as they are all dead in trespasses and sin.

Resurrection life is what is needed to counter the Original Sin, and that depends upon Christ's death and shed blood. The removal of the Original Sin took an act of God, not an act of man. Once you are made alive in Christ, then, and only then, can a person repent of personal sins. \clubsuit (Editorial-cont. from p. 3)

2. We no longer live unto ourselves, but unto Him who died and rose again. Jesus is not just our example, He is our pattern because He lives in us. (v. 15).

3. We no longer know any man or Jesus Christ after the flesh. To understand this truth, one must be able to rightly divide the Word of Truth (v. 16; 2 Tim. 2:15).

4. We have a four-fold message. One, all humans are chosen to be in Christ (Eph. 1:4). Two, born-again humans are a new-creation-race people. Three, re-birthed humans have no past. Four, the born-again will overcome the world (v. 17).

5. We know all things are of God. This truth is no problem to the re-birthed because God is now their Father (v. 18).

6. We have a defined ministry of the Word and of reconciliation to offer to the world (vv. 18–19).

7. We are ambassadors for Christ. Our primary mission is not to build churches or even to win souls. This we do, but it is secondary. Our prime mission is to be the Christ who lives in us as His direct representative in a hostile world that is full of rejection and rebellion toward Him.

As I said before, there are many things Paul gives the born-again that is not mentioned anywhere else in the Bible. It is only as we see Paul's gospel that we can enter this greater commission. \clubsuit EACH SIN WE FIND OUR SELF REPENT-ING OF IS AN ADJUSTMENT IN OUR LEARNING PRO-GRAM. THEREFORE, OUR SINS CAN BECOME A TOOL TO POINT US IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

IRAQ IN THE BIBLE

Israel is the most often mentioned nation in the Bible, but the second is Iraq. However, that is not the name used in the Bible. The names used in the Bible are Babylon, Land of Shinar and Mesopotamia. The word *Mesopotamia* means between the two rivers, more exactly between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. The name *Iraq* means country with deep roots. Indeed, Iraq is a country with deep roots and is a very significant country in the Bible.

1. The Garden of Eden was in Iraq (Gen. 2:10–14).

2. Mesopotamia, which is now Iraq, was the cradle of civilization.

 Adam and Eve were created in Iraq (Gen. 2:7–8).
4. Satan made his first

recorded appearance in Iraq (Gen. 3:1–6).

5. Noah built the ark in Iraq.6. Nimrod establishedBabylon, which destroyed

Jerusalem, in Iraq (Gen. 10:8–12).

7. The Tower of Babel, where confusion of the languages took place, was in Iraq (Gen. 11:1–11).

8. Abraham came from Ur in southern Iraq (Gen. 11:31; Acts 7:2–4).

9. Isaac's bride, Rebekah, came from Nahor in Iraq (Gen. 24:3–4, 10).

10. Jacob spent twenty years, and met Rachel, in Iraq (Gen. 27:42–45; 31:38).

11. The first world Empire was in Iraq (Dan. 1:1-2; 2:36-38).

12. The greatest revival in history was in a city in Iraq (Jonah 3).

13. The events of the Book of Esther took place in Iraq.

14. The Book of Nahum was a prophecy against a city in Iraq.

15. Jonah preached in Nineveh, which is in Iraq.

16. Assyria, which is in Iraq, conquered the ten

tribes of Israel.

17. Amos cried out in Iraq.18. Daniel was in the lion's den in Iraq.

19. The three Hebrew children were in the fire in Iraq (Jesus has been in Iraq, too, as the fourth person in the fiery furnace!).

20. Belshazzar, the King of Babylon, saw the "writing on the wall" in Iraq.

21. Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, carried the Jews captive into Iraq.

22. Ezekiel preached in Iraq.

23. The wise men were from Iraq.

24. Peter preached in Iraq.

25. The book of Revelation prophesies against Babylon, which was the old name for the nation of Iraq, and calls it the "Empire of Man" (Rev. 17 and 18).

No other nation, except Israel, has more history and prophecy associated with it than Iraq. \Im



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Modern Prison Epistle

To my family in Christ. Grace, peace and unspeakable joy be unto you in our Lord Jesus. I pray my letter finds you well and in our God's wonderful care.

Allow me, first, to introduce myself. My name is Ray Ogles. I am 43 years old and now very much in love with our Lord Jesus, and I so strongly desire to know and learn all I can about the Truth.

I would like to first share a testimony of how my life has arrived where I am now. I was earthly born in Coleman, Texas, in 1964, and from there I have had seven step-fathers and two step-moms. I have lived with many different relatives and have attended several different schools in different states while growing up. I was never introduced to stability. I tried every kind of alcohol, every kind of drug and I tried to live every kind of wild, street life out there. I even joined the Army only to flunk out and turn to crime. This now being my fourth trip to prison, it seemed to me that my life was a waste and without purpose. I had grown so tired of all the lies and false hope that the world and religion were offering.

My first trip to prison in 1985 was where my life with God began. There was a man there who planted seeds, and I wasn't even aware they were planted, but they grew. In October 1987, after my second trip to prison, I received Christ as my Lord, and a year later I received the baptism in the Holy Ghost. My life then began to change dramatically, and I knew the Lord was with me. Anyhow, I then began a wayward journey of doctrination that I believe led me to end up in a worse bondage than I was in before. I knew that the state I was in was not prescribed by my Father in Heaven. Living that victorious life I had always read and heard about alluded me at every corner, and I had no lasting peace or contentment. I looked at Full Gospel, Baptist, Presbyterian, Assembly of God, Pentecostal, Catholic and others. I found that all these denominations left me wanting, a hole in my soul, so to speak.

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But, in spite of all the doctrination I had experienced, there were bits and pieces of a new way of thinking that kept jumping off the pages of the Word. I knew that somewhere, somehow the truth of the mystery of godliness was lost in my understanding and also in all the denominations of Christianity. I also understood that most of the sermons, preaching and teaching that I had heard had lost its core foun-

dation of the gospel, which is what I have now come to know: the message of Grace and "in Christ"!

I was locked up, this time in June of 2005, for a 25-year sentence. In the winter of 2005-06, I pursuing began truth and desiring only to know this true freedom that

Christ talked about. As I vielded, the Holy Spirit gently began to lead me to and illuminate the truth. WOW! Praise God! While at the Holiday Unit, I developed a stronger relationship with the Lord, and I also developed a personal study method. I now spend time every day in His Word. I then began to be still before the Lord, and I knew that He was in control, so I waited patiently.

On May 24, 2007, I came here to the Ellis Unit where I met a 70-year-old man named John Graves. John had read a few of your books and had received your publication, Life in the Son. John shared with me the true meaning of Grace and helped me to better understand the "in Christ" message that you teach. All kinds of lights began to come to life in my thinking and understanding.

Eighteen plus years of going to church, Bible study, being water baptized, begging God and basically doing some kind of work for salvation went right out the window, and at last I found

Charles, I doubt that's what Jesus meant when He said we must be born again...



(or was given) the very truth that I was made free indeed.

The Lord has since shown me that the giant in my life wasn't a giant at all, but rather a crafty lie that I had to somehow always work my way to being good enough for God.

My belief system was faulty. What I didn't know was that, because of the Grace of God I was rebirthed into the family of God, and Christ was alive and well in me! Oh! What joy did fill my heart as this illumination began to fill all my thinking and understanding! For the first time, I could sincerely call out Abba, Father, and I know He heard me because I am His!

Now that I know the message of Grace, it's like I am reading a whole new Bible. I have heard many sermons on 2 Corinthians 5:17, but the Lord opened up to me 2 Corinthians 5:21. Now I know both who and what I am in Christ and that Christ not only died for me but died as me, taking my sin-nature

> with Him to the Cross. My being rebirthed by the incorruptible seed of the Word of God has ministered to me that the new man that arose with Christ is Christ in me and it is His colife living in me, and this knowledge is so liberating.

I want you to

never been happier nor more content in all my life. I thank God for opening the doors that allowed your ministry of truth to come into my life. I have read part 1 of "The Manifested Glory of God in Our Union with Christ." Wow! Such truth that every believer must have. And to know we are one with Christ makes all the difference in living in victory or defeat.

I do look forward to hearing from you, and know that I pray for you and your ministry. God bless and keep you always!

Ambassador, Ray Ogles

(Daily Living-cont. from p. 10)

will be gained on this question until the twofold aspect of the ministry of Christ is distinguished.

According to Romans 15:8–9, Christ was first and primarily a minister of the circumcision to confirm the promises that were made unto Israel. Second, His mission was that Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy. This twofold distinction can be seen at every point in Paul's epistles.

Christ's Twofold Ministry

THOSE WHO ARE UNDER THE LAW, DO; THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST, BELIEVE.

Christ, thus, had а twofold ministry which He was to fulfill on this Earth. The first of those ministries was that He would sustain the particular and unique relationship of the nation of Israel to the God who had messianic given great covenants to them. At the opening of Christ's ministry, He said, "I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matt. 15:24). At that same time, He sent His disciples out with the Jewish message of the kingdom of Heaven. He instructed them, saving:

"Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 10:5-7).

As a Jew, Jesus taught, kept and enforced the law. Speaking to the Jewish ruler, Jesus said, *"If thou wilt enter* into life, keep the commandments" (Matt. 19:17). This was true to the Jewish dispensation; and what He had to say was with reference to the Law of Moses, the law which said, "This do, and thou shalt live."

But Christ also had another ministry which took hold in vivid form whenever Christ saw that the Jews were rejecting their Messiah, and that He literally had come to His own and His own were receiving Him not. This other ministry was to sinners and to Gentiles.

Whenever Jesus contemplated the Cross and Himself as the Savior, He presented Himself as that bread that came down from Heaven to give life to the world. He said to whosoever would be saved, "This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom [God] has sent" (John 6:29). To the Jews He said, "This do and ye shall live"; to the Gentiles and sinners He said, "This is the work of God, that ye believe." Those who are under the law, do; those who are in Christ, believe. These opposing principles can never be reconciled. They indicate the fundamental distinction that must exist between the keeping of the law on the one hand and the Christ-life on the other hand.

Believers and Commandments

What, then, should believers today do with the many commandment that Christ

gives? For instance, Christ, in His teaching, is very plain on the subject of commandments. Look at the record:

"If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15);

"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me" (John 14:21); "

If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love" (John 15:10);

"And hereby do we know that we know him, if we keep his commandments" (1 John 2:3);

"And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight" (1 John 3:22);

"He that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him" (1 John 3:24);

"By this, we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments" (1 John 5:2);

"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you" (Matt. 28:20);

and, "Blessed are they that do his commandments" (Rev. 22:14).

Now the question is: Is Christ, here, requiring the commandments as given to Moses? It should be noted that when dealing with Jews as such, He gave no commandment of His own relative to the rule of their lives. He recognized only the Law of Moses and the Law of the Kingdom. In matters of life relationship to God, He said, "What readest thou in the Law?" But when He began to instruct those who were saved by His death through His Cross, He began to announce that He was pleased to use the term "My commandments." This term is not found in all the gospels until the record is given of His farewell words in the upper room on the night before His death (John 13–17). This is very significant, for it is evident that the

(JESUS SAID-CONT. FROM P. 14) mother is a Christ to her children. The man is the husband-Christ to his wife and children. Wherever we upper room discourse was addressed not to Israelites, but to those who were clean through the Word He had spoken unto them.

It should be noted, likewise, that Christ, when speaking of life, as in Matthew 18:1–10, was not speaking of the same kind of life that would come from Calvary. This life, which Jesus offered to the Jews, was a life which was yet to be granted to them. This life comes on the basis of their faithful lawkeeping works.

But in the upper room discourse, when Jesus spoke of men being clean through His Word, He was speaking of life that came as a person rather than as a particular philosophy which was believed. Israel and the Jew will not have this eternal life given to them nationally until their covenants are restored fully in the millennium. P*(CONT. IN NEXT ISSUE)*



are, in whatever situation we find ourselves, it is Christ in us as us that reflects His love, wisdom and understanding through us. The Holy Spirit in us is the revealer of Christ who is God's love in us. **The UNT END**

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Christ believes in you...

...enough to come into your life knowing God has created you differently than anybody else in the universe, and He determines to fit your creation, to fit you.

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He believes in you so much that after you are saved, even though everything you believe about life, times, eternity, the Bible and doctrine may be contrary to Him, He still sticks with you.

You may have picked up erroneous information or false doctrine in good churches with good preachers, you may have learned stuff that doesn't fit Him at all, but, because you believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, He stuck with you. He has lived in you; He has loved you and has carried you through hard times.

Jesus believes in you so much that, even though you fail and He is a perfect success, He never leaves you. You are not incompatible because His love and belief in you is greater





Jesus had one intention in living in you—to set you free. You had never been free with Satan's nature in you. You didn't know. You thought you did your own thing, but you were only doing what Satan's nature made you do because "Satan was the sinner from the beginning." When Christ came to you in the new birth as your life, it was to make you free. He believed in you enough to turn you loose to be free.