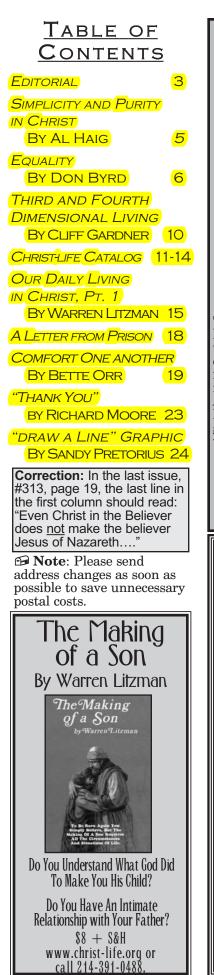
# <u>Life in the Som</u> A Journal of Grace and the In-Christ Message

**Christ-life Pull-out Catalog Inside** 



# Life in the Son

#### OUR 46TH YEAR OF CONTINUOUS PUBLICATION

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### Editorial

### THE RELATION BETWEEN FAITH AND GIVING

By Warren Litzman

"For we dare not make ourselves of the number or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you. For we stretch not ourselves beyond our measure, as though we reached not unto you; for we are come as far as to you also in preaching the gospel of Christ: Not boasting of things without our measure, that is, of other men's labours; but having hope your faith when isincreased that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly, to preach the gospel in the regions beyond you" (2 Cor. 10:12-16).

Here lately some have asked how we treat the believer's offerings in our Fellowship. The answer is simple, the Father has always provided for the continuation of our message, without us ever needing to beg or even ask for a special offering. The Father's promise to us was that He will provide for His message. Paul's message helps us give understanding as to how we operate.

As in our own day, so in Paul's, some men of God were stretching things to make their ministries appear larger than they really were, and so were stretching their lines of supply too thin, as it were, in spreading the gospel. Not so for Paul. He had not had to stretch to reach as far as the Corinthians in his ministry. Eager as he was to reach others with the gospel of the grace of God, it was only as funds had been supplied that he and his party had carried on their ministry at Corinth.

How had these funds come in? True, he could make his living expenses and even help to support his coworkers (Acts 20:34) by his trade as a tentmaker, but this could hardly support his apostolic campaigns. Twice in the above passage he speaks of his rule in this matter. He had not had to stretch to reach the Corinthians with the gospel, for it had been his rule to launch out further with the



gospel only as God provided the means. God did this through those of His people who, having tasted the blessings of grace, had the heart to reach others with it. Thus it is that the apostle writes to the Corinthians that he has hope "when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly, to preach the gospel in the regions beyond you" (2 Cor. 10:15–16).

This is the crux of the matter: it is when our faith and trust is increased to catch the vision of what God can and will do through our sacrifices that we are most apt to make such sacrifices, The money we invest in the Lord's service does not genresults erally produce immediately, but the Word clearly teaches that God is pleased with faithful, sacrificial giving and that He will use our gifts for His glory. The proportionate measure of our sacrifice, therefore, is exactly that of our trust in our Father.

#### How Do You Measure Up?

One matter that troubled Paul centuries ago still troubles us today: the gross inequality in Christian giving. Under the Law of Moses, tithes were required from all. A man gave into the treasury of the Lord in proportion to his income because it was strictly commanded by law, and he could be dealt with for delinquency. At Pentecost, in that foretaste of the kingdom to come, they did even more. They gave their all and had "all things common." Our Lord, in His proclamation of the kingdom, had commanded His followers to liquidate their investments and contribute them for the common good. These were His instructions to one rich man (Luke 18:22), to the twelve (Matt. 10:9-10) and to all His followers (Luke 12:33). When the Holy Spirit was poured out, these instructions were put into practice.

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"All that believed were together, and had all things common, and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need" (Acts 2:44–45).

"Neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.... Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need" (Acts 4:32, 34–35).

The first departure from this program, and one of the first inklings of the ushering in of the dispensation of grace, is found in Acts 11:27-30, where we find Paul and Barnabas ministering among the Gentiles at Antioch. On this occasion, upon learning of the financial distress of the believers in Judaea, the disciples, "every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judea" (v. 29). "Every man according to his ability," this is the norm for giving under the present dispensation. In grace, the word and idea of tithing is not to be found.

With regard to the collection being taken up at Corinth. the apostle's instructions were the same as those given to the churches of Galatia and to believers everywhere: each should give, he said, "as God hath prospered him" (1 Cor. 16:1–2). This applied not only to contributions for the poor, but also to the support of the Lord's work (2 Cor. 10:13–16). It was not right, he argued, that some should be eased and others burdened; that faithful saints should have to bear additional load for an unfaithful ones, who were often in a better position to help (2 Cor. 8:13).

"For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not" (v. 12).

This passage has its application to the poor, of

course, but also to the rich, for their gifts, too, are accepted by God in the light of what they have.

We are living, to be sure, under the dispensation of grace, but in a sense the Lord still sits at His treasury, observing how His people give. He still takes note how some casually cast in "of their abundance" while others make real sacrifices (cf. Luke 21:1–4).

Christians who are prospering today while failing to do their proportionate part to advance the cause of Christ, may impress others with their possessions and even with their contributions to the Lord's work, but they do not impress Him. He accepts a gift only "according to that a man hath" and cannot be expected to reward, but will rather reprove, those who were saved at infinite cost but now spend lavishly on themselves while His cause suffers loss. This plan has worked perfectly through the years of the Christ-life ministry. We have never needed to ask for an offering to carry on the work the Father has given us to do. How blessed we are! Yet, many times the offerings that were given to us were ample to carrying out the work. How blessed we have been!

We pray that the Holy Spirit will use this exhortation to convict the hearts of those who, in this wonderful age of grace, have been living

### SIMPLICITY AND PURITY IN CHRIST

By Al Haig

"I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity and purity in Christ" (2 Cor. 11:3).

Paul's gospel was simple and pure. He was the apostle to the Gentiles, the Greeks, the Romans and the Phoenician people who did not have any knowledge or understanding of the Old Testament. They were caught up in the belief in many gods-Minerva, Zeus, Jupiter, Eros, just to name a few, and their morals were appalling. Lust ruled. expressed in adultery and homosexuality. Temple prostitutes corrupted their places of worship.

God sent Paul to present the way of salvation to lost Gentiles. What was the simple and pure gospel Paul presented to them? The first basic truth Paul taught them was that there was one true and living God who with loved them an absolutely unlimited love, and His great desire was to redeem them from the gross darkness they were living in and translate them as new creatures into a new life in

which He, God, could have fellowship (*koinonia*) with them. God wants to have one-to-one fellowship with His children.

This was borne out by Jesus when He spoke to a Samaritan woman whose life was totally messed up through five futile marriages. He revealed to her that almighty God, the Father, seeks us to worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:23). In Matthew 18:12, the Good Shepherd (God) leaves the ninety and nine and seeks the one who had gone astray. God seeks and longs to have oneness with you and me, but our whole being-mind, body and spirit-was blackened and deadened by Sataninspired disobedience in the

Garden of Eden. Hence, "in Adam, all die." In 1 Cor. 15:22, God's children are born dead in trespasses and sins and are completely helpless until they are born again (from above).

I'm sure many Greek, Roman, Phoenician and Gentile worshippers of strange gods knew they were mixed up and deeply guilty because of their fleshly lifestyle. Many must have longed for a better, meaningful life, free of the heavy burden of sin and guilt. Paul came along and declared unto them that there is a way out, and this way out is provided entirely by a loving Father, God, who wants us to live in a love relationship with Him.

I may fail in the reflection of my perfection, but I am perfect because Christ is my perfection!

(CONT. ON PAGE 21)



# EQUALITY

By Don Byrd

This document must be understood with perspective to the fact that it is about the Father part of God, not His deity as the omnipotent, omniscient or omnipresent God. God is sovereign, but the greatest thing Jesus attributes to Him is His Fatherhood. "My Father... is greater than all..." (John 10:29). God, through His omnipotence, can create worlds without end, but He, by His omnipotence, cannot create a single son! Sons must be birthed, and a birthing requires the existence of a father. This is why Jesus makes the statements in John's gospel that pertain to the new birth.

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again" (John 3:3, 7).

God can be many things without a son, but He cannot be a father except He has a son, and this necessitates a birthing by the Father.

"For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?" (Heb. 1:5).

It is obvious from the phrase "...I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son" that its functionality is contingent upon more than a individual entity. This is what I have termed the Father-Son relationship. It is an incomplete principle without both a father and a son. The Father-Son relationship is a single relationship contingent upon two individual and equal entities functioning in perfect unison with each other. The perfect uniaccomplished is son through the love principle found within the nature of each of these two entities. This same relationship is called oneness in John's gospel. Oneness is a foundational principle necessary to have true fellowship.

It is within this Father-Son relationship that love functions in its purest form or in total perfection. This Father-Son relationship manifests itself in a manner which we call grace. One thing is for certain; grace will not be found outside of the Father-Son relationship. If grace is found outside this relationship as it was in the Old Testament, it has no permanent effect upon its recipient. It is my understanding that the Holy Spirit is the administrator of grace. Until Christ the Son is birthed in the believer, the Holy Spirit can only administer grace in an outer and temporal manner, or not at all. In essence, this simply means that prior to the new birth, grace could not be administered internally because there was no "Christ in you" who is the personification of Grace toward grace. mankind was in a temporal outward form toward mankind until "Christ in you" became a reality!

"Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high" (Heb. 1:3).

This, of course, defines the Son, and the expression manifested is that of the Father; it also declares equality in nature with the Father. This desire for equality did not originate with the Son, but it is what the Father wanted for His Son and for Himself. It is this equality with the Father that became the prime accusation by the Jews toward Jesus, which brought about the Son's crucifixion and death on the cross.

"Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God" (John 5:18).

Why equality? It is my understanding that total equality is the basis of true fellowship.

"That which, we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ" (1 John 1:3).

True fellowship becomes very difficult, if not impossible, when it is between two entities of unequal ranks or different levels of understanding, (different natures).

"Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 1:1).

*"Like precious faith"* is manifested through a nature and is indicative of what I am attempting to say. This is the prime reason our Father wanted His Son to have equality with Him. This is so beautifully described in Hebrews 1:3 as "the brightness of his glory and the express image of his person"! This is total equality with the Father and is called Son! How better could this have been stated? This. of course. describes a nature and nothing less. The highest level of fellowship can be achieved under these circumstances. This is why equality is a necessity if fellowship is to be achieved in its purest form. Equality is what the Father wanted for His offspring so that He could have true fellowship with them. He did this for Himself and for His offspring, and that equates to true fellowship! So where does this leave the bornagain believer? The bornagain believer has total fellowship through "Christ in *you*"! Within the believer is resident "the brightness of his glory and the express image of his person"! Because of this, the bornagain believer can have true fellowship with the Father and His Son. This is what I call a nature-tonature fellowship with the Father and Son. It is this nature-to-nature fellowship that our Father wanted from before Creation. Where does this fellowship culminate? It is fulfilled through the equality in our Father's nature in the believer through Christ in the believer!



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#### **Reciprocating Love**

I can love with the same love whereby I am loved of God. In the words of Jesus our Lord:

"Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world" (John 17:24).

"And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them" (John 17:26).

Wow! Incredible indeed is this! This is a dynamic statement of eternal magnitude. There is no doubt about it; no one ever loved God the Father to the degree that Jesus Christ, our Lord, did until grace became a reality for the believer. God, by His grace, placed Christ in the believer, which qualified the believer to be able to love his Father to the same degree as does Jesus Christ, our Lord! Why? Because it is the same love in both the Son and the born-again believer, and the source of this love is the inborn "Christ in you" nature in the believer! "That the love wherewith thou lovedst me may be in them" is the only love a believer will ever need in life on this Earth or in eternity. This is Christ's love in the believer, but it is to be used by the believer as though it is his own love. This is the reckoning principle in full operation as defined by Paul, and it brings true fellowship with the Father and with His Son.

When God birthed His only begotten Son, He did not give birth to another god but to one who is His Son! In essence, this means that when God acted in His capacity as Father, the product of that action was a son. From the onset, God wanted to be Father, which has many facets. Because of His inward nature, God, in the beginning, made the decision to love and to be loved with the same magnitude of love from another being. In the beginning, prior to Creation, God birthed His only begotten Son. Thus began the Father-Son relationship. This is my summation of:

"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew it unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ" (1 John 1:1-3).

It should be obvious that the basis of this relationship is love generated by the Father-Son relationship. This is not a God-to-God relationship, but a Father-to-Son relationship.

This is not an attempt to make known the attributes of one who is a God, but to make known the attributes of one who is a Father. It is quite obvious that God's attributes as the Omnipotent One, Creator, Almighty, Sovereign God is known by all, even by those who are not born-again believers. Knowing God as Creator, Almighty, Sovereign God makes no difference whatsoever to the unconverted person.

"Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imagination, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves" (Rom. 1:21-24).

This is not an attempt to make known the attributes of one who is a God, but to make known the attributes of one who is a Father. From this I gather that knowing God in His capac-Almighty, ity as the Sovereign, Everlasting, Mighty One of Israel brings no change in the mankind. of nature Mankind, in general, continued in a downward spiral until mankind became what Paul describes in Romans as creatures with a reprobate mind.

"And even as they did not like to retain God in their God gave knowledge, them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient" (Rom. 1:28).

No basic change in humanity occurred until the Day of Pentecost when Christ, the Son, came to live in humanity. This in essence constitutes a birthing, which is the greatest event that has ever happened or ever will happen. From Adam to Jesus Christ of Nazareth, the only way mankind could know God was without His Fatherly attributes. There are some great and notable characters mentioned in the Bible such as Abel, Noah. Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob, Rachael, Moses, and so on. These great men and women are highly esteemed within the realm of Christianity, and rightly so. Each of these never knew God in His capacity. fatherly In essence, this means God was never their Father, and they did not know Him as Father. God can be sovereign, omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent and never need to manifest such traits as love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness or temperance. However, when He desires to manifest Himself as Father, each of these is automatically and fully manifested toward each born-again believer.

God did not want believers to be gods because it was not necessary to be a god in order to participate in the fellowship described in 1 John 1:1–3. It was not necessary for a person to be a God to participate in this fellowship, but it did necessitate a birthing. This simply means all participants must know God as their very own Father through "Christ you" to be able to have the fellowship of 1 John 1:1-3!

#### **Reciprocal Love**

Having "Christ in you" is not enough to participate in the fellowship described in 1 John 1:1–3 because the fellowship there is a Father-Son fellowship. The believer must also know that he has Christ in him or else the level of fellowship will be something less than the Father-Son level of fellowship in fullness. God did not look for another god so that he could fellowship with the other god. The fellowship of 1 John 1:1-3 is not a Godto-God fellowship; it is a Father-to-Son fellowship wherein all who have Christ are qualified participants. This is a nature-to-nature relationship and is what God wanted from the beginning for Himself and for His offspring.

When Jesus, our Lord, gave us His Father to be our very own Father, every born-again believer became equal to the Son in the Father-Son relationship. This means the believer now has the same Father as does our Lord, Jesus Christ! This means the born-again believer has the capability to love our Father to the same degree as does Christ Jesus, our Lord. When our Father put His Son in the believer, the possibilities of being a birthed son of the Father are limited only to the "Christ in you.".

The fact is Jesus never KNOWING GOD IN wanted to be better than HIS CAPACITY AS vou or any other believer! SOVEREIGN, Confirmation of this is EVERLASTING, found in: "...that he might MIGHTY ONE OF be the firstborn among NO CHANGE IN manv brethren" 8:29). According birthright, all brothers are equal because they all have the same father. In essence, this means the born-again believer has total liberty and equality to participate in the fellowship of the Father and Son by "Christ in you." This is what the Father wanted for Himself and what the Son wanted for each born-again believer in our Father's house! Our Father doesn't want others who can create worlds without end or perform superhuman feats; all He wants is to have sons who can love Him as He loves them! 🕆

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# Third and Fourth Dimensional Living

By Cliff Gardner

Unless the inhabitants of the world have been rebirthed ("born again") by our heavenly Father, they are limited to third-dimensional (terrestrial, earthbound and materialistic) thinking and living. All human-originated knowledge has to do with life in the third dimension.

Fourth-dimensional knowledge, or spirit knowledge, comes only by revelation. Relying on human knowledge, people can contemplate the fourth dimension, but they can only speculate on it. No concrete meaning can be derived from it except by revelation from an entity that resides in the fourth dimension.

The spirit world is divided between good and evil the good being from the one true God and the evil from the rebelious, false and selfappointed god, Satan.

The rebel spirit whispers deception to the fallen human race. This twisted knowledge comes in a form that appeals to and feeds the original lie of Eden that *"ye shall be as gods."* It says that man is independent and is basically self-existent, that he is his own source of good, that he is the highest order of evolution and that, given enough information and education, he can progress to express the deity that he is. Fallen man believes he has life in himself and if any outside help is needed, he only needs to be assisted. The deception also says the human race will take control of the universe as man is refined by the evolutionary process.

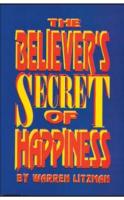
In the lie, there is a sort of caste system with the elite ruling over the ignorant masses. The appeal at the upper level is for control and manipulation while at the bottom it is for the gratification of all the base animal passions.

Caught in the deception, the fallen human race pursues the fulfillment it longs for but can never achieve. The opiates of temporary pleasure and gratification become the reason for existence. The lie out of the darkness poses as true light, and so man is caught in the loop of deception.

There is only one source of pure, unadulterated truth, with no shadowy shades of meaning or halftruths. It comes from the one, true God and is made manifest (knowable) by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God has a plan whereby He purposes to make Himself known to *"whosoever will"* respond to His drawing by the Holy Spirit.

God (the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ), too, works in the realm of fourth-dimensional revelation, but His activity is all truth. He uses no deception, half-truths or coercion that marks the operation of the evil one. His plan encompasses the whole human race with no exceptions; it is offered to whosoever will accept it. His source of communicable truth is the living Word, His Son, Jesus Christ. In His Son, there is no place for so-called "religious practice" whereby man, by himself, improves himself. He did not merely bring newer and better information; He brought life because He is life, the only true life. He did not give us a better doctrinal statement than other belief systems. In fact, He is all truth personified. Outside of Him, all statements of truth are flawed and, so, are held to be invalid by the Father. In other words, we are not of the truth because of our doctrinal statement; we are of the truth if we are partakers of Him who is the Truth, and He is our only true life! ♥

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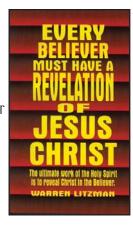
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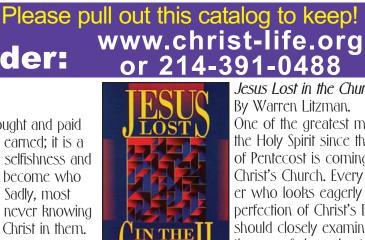


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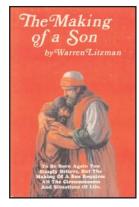
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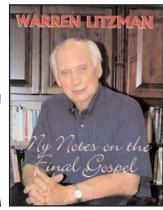
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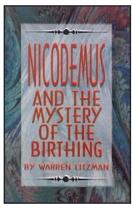
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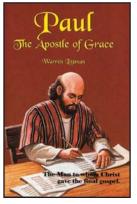
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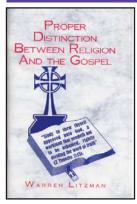
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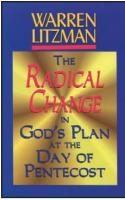
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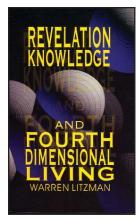


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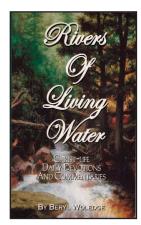


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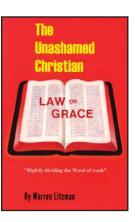
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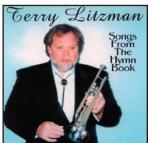
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# Our Daily Living In Christ

#### Part 1

By Warren Litzman

The message of God to the unsaved world is that they believe on the Lord Jesus Christ who is offered to them in limitless grace. The message to the saved and born-again is that they walk worthy of the calling wherewith they are called.

One of the most difficult things to do, in the Christlife, is to pinpoint exactly how every believer is to live. It is difficult because it is not God's intention that every believer live the same or be the same manifestation of the Christ who is in each believer. Actually, the very heart of the message of the Christ-life is that Christ will flow out of each human being differently, and because there is only one Son, God has elected that all who are created in His likeness and image should be different so that one Son might be manifested unto Him in many various ways. This means that stereotype religion and doctrine. derived to make all believers look and act alike, are not only error but are a tremendous effrontery to the Christ who has been birthed in the believer. It is God's grace that has allowed Christ to come into the believer, regardless of the believer's condition of sin and the kind of person he is. It is God's intention that Christ shall swamp and overwhelm all that the believer previously was by the Christ-life, but by no means is the distinctiveness of that believer taken away because Christ flows out of him. It is, as we so often say, Christ in us, as us.

#### Three Distinctive Positions

The salvation that comes by Christ, which God accomplishes for those who believe, includes, among other things, the placing of the saved one into three distinctive positions.

First, the believer is placed into the position of a son of God. John clearly declares, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God" (1 John 3:2). The word now signifies that this is not something we are going to be by our walk or daily living, but it is something birthed instantaneously the moment we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

The second position the believer has been placed into is that of a citizen of Heaven. We cannot get away from the fact that God's plan does not culminate on Earth, nor was it ever intended to be an earthly plan. It was God's intention, before the foundation of the world was laid, to have children to live in His house. We know, through the study of the Word, that the Father's house is located in Heaven. We also know that being citizens of Heaven is not purely a psychological or a spiritual state, but is a literal place of which we have been made members instantaneously at the birthing. The Scripture plainly declares that all believers are strangers and sojourners on this Earth and in this world and, as a result, belong as citizens of Heaven.

Third, we are placed as members of the family and household of God. Paul is very confident in this matter that believers are a distinctive part of the house of God, meaning His abiding place aside from this world.

It is a fact that even though Jesus said, "In my Father's house are many mansions" (John 14:2), we can translate this to mean a spiritual position in Christ. This does not, by any means, take away the fact that there is a Father's house which was in operation before our world began, of which Lucifer was a part and called a "son of the morning" (Isa. 14:12). Thus, Jesus said, "In my Father's house are many mansions... I go to prepare a place for you." This means there was a place which He is preparing that was not finalized as a finished work of Calvary, but rather would be in preparation until we came to abide in Him.

#### GOD IS THE FATHER OF THE BELIEVER AND HIS NATURE IS IN THE BELIEVER. IN TIME, GOD WILL EXPECT THE MIND OF THAT BELIEV-ER TO CONNECT THAT NATURE WITH GOD WHO HAS BIRTHED IT.

Since every position in Christ a believer attains demands a corresponding manner of life, it is to be expected that a rule of conduct as exalted as God, Himself, will be committed to that believer. This is because God is the Father of that believer and His nature is in the believer. In time, God will expect the mind of that believer to connect that nature with God who has birthed it. This is precisely what we find in the Scriptures, for Christ not only provides a perfect salvation for the believes one who on Christ, but Christ also provides the instruction for the daily life of the one who has believed as well. This instruction not only comes outwardly from the Scriptures but comes from within to the mind, for Christ has been made unto us wisdom and knowledge.

This instruction for the daily life, it will be found, is a particular revelation from God to Christians only. The new creation race gospel is entirely separated from and independent of any other rule of life which is found in the Word of God. By that we mean that what God taught Abraham, Moses, the Children of Israel. David. Isaiah or even John the Baptist is entirely separated from the rule of life which the Scripture gives to the new-creation-race believer.

#### The Different Covenants

The Bible is the one book from God for all people for all ages. It contains the detailed expression of the will of God concerning the manner of life of various dispensational classes of people. They are related to God in different periods of time and under different corresponding covenants. Among the revelations within these covenants is the rule of conduct regarding the daily life of those who are to please God. Certainly, those who are birthed by the Father are different from any other people. even in the Scriptures, and have been

given special teaching truths which flow out of and from only the Dispensation of Grace.

This period of time includes everything happening from the Cross of Christ to the Rapture of the Church. The people who come to know God during this period of time have a very gracious and precious rule of life, complete in itself, which stands alone in the Scriptures and is dissociated from, and absolutely uncomplicated by, any other portion of Scripture. It is the teaching of the Word made flesh. Obviously, it has to do with the teachings of the Apostle Paul, for he was raised up by God to be a messenger to the Church, which is the general term given to the corporation of believers who have been birthed by God the Father.

The purpose of this writing is to elaborate on the identification and application of that body of Scripture relative to the teachings of Christ the Word. The value of knowing this revelation cannot be estimated for at least two reasons.

First, Christians who do not know the facts of the revealed will of God for their daily life may not hope to live a life well-pleasing to God. This revealed will of God flows right out of the Christ in him, who has been made unto him wisdom (1 Cor. 1:30).

Second, because appalling ignorance exists on every

The

Gospel

**New-Creation-Race** 

hand concerning these vital truths and distinctions from the Word of God. I feel that careful time must be spent so that the believer will no longer be faced with a collage of ideas from the whole of the Bible but will concentrate solelv on those Scriptures for his rule and conduct of living, which are designated new-creation-life teachings.

#### Doctrines of Men Cause Strife

No careful reader of the New Testament can fail to observe the fact that doctrinal strife was in effect from the very beginning of the Christian Church on the Day of Pentecost. This controversy was concerned mainly with the question of whether law or grace was to furnish the governing principle of Christian conduct. Although the New Testament contains specific and lengthy warnings against the legalizers and their teachings, and even though their systems are proven to be opposed to the doctrine of Christ, the Word, their successors, the law-keepers from generation to generation to the present time, have constantly sought to discredit the Christ-life message. Their messages, though steeped in error, have often exhibited great zeal and sincerity, but zeal and sincerity, though greatly to be desired when welldirected, fail utterly, in God's sight, as substitutes for a constant presentation of the truth. The only hope of deliverance from the false doctrines of legalizing teachers is through the unprejudiced teaching of the exact revelations of the Scriptures. This examination of the Scriptures should be free from a blind following of the teachings of men, and should be made with a heart willing to receive reproof and correction from the Word of God, as well as instruction in righteousness (2 Tim. 3:16). It is only when one hungers to know the truths that have to do with the new-creation-race people that they can appreciate the teachings of the Christ-life.

#### Christ Our Savior and Teacher

In Titus 2:11–14, we read:

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denving ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should tide soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world [age]; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."

Now, there are two greatly different ministries of the Christ-life set forth in this passage. First, the text says that the grace of God which bringeth salvation and the Christ who is salvation hath appeared unto all men. This refers to the saving grace of God which has come into the world by Christ Jesus and is now to be proclaimed to all men. It is a message for all men since its provisions are universal and its invitation is to "whosoever will."

Second, the passage also says that it is the same Christ who is salvation and has brought salvation to all men who teaches us. The word *us*, it should be observed, does not refer to the wider class of all men that are in the world, but it refers only to the company of believers who are saved. Now, the importance of this distinction is evident, for whatever Christ proposes to teach, His teachings are addressed only to those who are saved by His life. This qualifying aspect of the teachings of Christ is not limited to this one passage, though that would suffice. It is an outstanding characteristic of the whole ministry of Christ's teachings, as they appear throughout the New Testament. These teachings are addressed to Christians only, and are never intended to be imposed on the Christrejecting individual or the Christ-rejecting world. This fact cannot be emphasized too forcibly. The Word of God makes no appeal to the unsaved to live a better life. 🕆 (Continued next issue.)

THE ONLY HOPE OF DELIVERANCE FROM THE FALSE DOCTRINES OF LEGALIZING TEACH-ERS IS THROUGH THE U N P R E J U D I C E D TEACHING OF THE EXACT REVELATIONS OF THE SCRIPTURES.

# A LETTER FROM PRISON

Dear Warren and Robbie,

Thank you, thank you, thank you a 1,000,000,000 times to eternity. In all my life's travels and all my searching, I was always looking for that one thing that would make it all make sense and now I know that one thing was the revelation of the knowledge of the mystery. Oh, believe me, I thought I knew the mystery and thus I was bound and defeated and hated my life. Then I met Richard Moore, a fellow inmate, and he started sharing the Christ-life with me. Wow! I've only been studying for three months, and I've never been so happy and free. He has let me read a lot of your books and magazines. My life, for once, has meaning and purpose.

My parents were hippy migrant farm workers and drug dealers. I started doing pot at the age of 9



and LSD at 13 and coke and crystal meth at 15. I have no family or real friends so coming here and meeting Richard has been a tremendous blessing. He has shared material as well as spiritual things with me and he's a real man of God and son of the Most High God. I feel such a connection with all of you and I know it's because I've received revelation of the Christ-life. Jesus is my only life and so please keep up all that you do. It is changing lives and people are receiving what they truly need and that's revelation of the Jesus Christ whom Paul preaches. Amen.

God Bless you all in the name of our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Sincerely, Robert Wayne Dickinson III

# CHRIST-LIFE PRISON MINISTRY

Every week, Christ-life Fellowship receives thank-you letters from prisoners who have found Christ through free Christ-life materials inmates pass around inside prisons. Many testify that they see God's work in their lives, bringing them to the lowest point in their lives in prison so that they could learn Christ and reach an intimate relationship with their heavenly Father. Many realize they are now in a prime location to minister to others who are desparately searching for answers. These prisoners praise God joyfully for His Son and His love, dispite their situations. They are amazing testimonies of how "all things work together for good to them that love God" (Rom. 8:28).

**Christ-life Prison Ministry** supplies free material to any prisoner who requests it, courtesy of you who give to the **Prison Ministry Fund**. Every issue of *Life in the Son* magazine goes to 46 U.S. prison libraries as our #1 missionary worldwide.

Please consider giving a tax-deductible donation to the Christ-life Prison Ministry Fund through our online bookstore at www.christ-life.org or call 214-391-0488.

## **COMFORT ONE ANOTHER**

**By Bette Orr** 

"Wherefore comfort one another with these words" (Thess. 4:18).

Thinking about some aspects of the world we live in today, I cringe and am saddened at many attitudes, practices and beliefs. One of the important things that saddens me is the lack of teaching regarding the Rapture, the resurrection of the dead in Christ. Most believers talk only about the Second Coming of Christ.

Often it seems adults do about not speak the Rapture to each other, let alone to their children. Subjects like the Rapture the resurrection of the saints, the rebirthed children of God, the born-again, what a Christian is, how we are the heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ—are great truths that those who have believed in Jesus Christ already possess, but they are seldom discussed.

What is the Second Coming of Jesus Christ? That is when He shall come in His kingly stance to conquer and rule the Earth with a strong and just hand. Many people today are confused about the end-time sequence. They only want to read the book of John's Revelation and spend their time trying to figure out the types and shadows contained therein. But if you understand the really sequence of the times you would realize the book of Revelation has to do with Israel—the Jews, or God's disobedient chosen people and those who are left on the Earth with them after the Rapture. Why are they left here? Because the Jews rejected Jesus Christ as their Messiah and the others because they did not believe on Jesus Christ to be their Savior.

Do vou realize the human race is being programmed by religion for a life on Earth after the Rapture? You must remember that at the Rapture, as Christ calls His people to Him, the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, who was sent to comfort and teach the believers and to draw the unbelievers to Christ, will also return to Heaven. There will be no covering of calmness, comfort or peace left on the Earth. Many watch, and allow their children to watch, TV shows and movies with one living form, man or animal, turning into various other forms and doing things that they do not naturally do; they conjuring up events that are out of this world. Children watch disaster after disaster

appear before their eyes, and it's embedded into their minds and hearts, nature turning against mankind in every unspeakable way.

Why do you suppose all this is being presented? To condition you to shrug your shoulders and accept these things as normal. You'll say: *I'm used to seeing these things; it doesn't mean anything.* 

How will the Earth look after the Rapture? Imagine the removal of the Christpeople and the Holy Spirit; it will be as you have been educated to see. Look at the riots, the rebellions, the hatred shown, the fights you now see on TV. What they will experience after the Rapture will be ten thousand times worse, for no man nor beast will have restraint of any kind.

Parents can be deceived allowing their children to view all these shows, and they don't seem to mind. They say: *It's all fiction, fantasy, a figment of imagination.* But they shy away from speaking the facts of the Rapture to their children because it's too upsetting or it's fiction; it's fantasy.

We must be reminded, as church-goers and professed Christians, that when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and accepted Him as our Savior. the one who removed all sin and became our life, we became members of a new race of people. We are spiritual beings; we are no longer members of one of the two main races of people on Earth, the Jews and the Gentiles. We are children of God, born again Christians, Christ-people, spiritual beings.

I remember vividly when I was a child, our family at that time, were not regular church-goers, but, from listening to conversations between my mom and her mom, we kids knew about the Rapture. If we came into the house and couldn't find mom, we just knew that the Lord had raptured her, and she was gone and we were left. You think that didn't make us mind our steps in all areas of our lives?

So I ask you, with what are you comforting one another? Paul tells us about the Rapture in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17:

"But I would not have you to be ignorant brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

Is the last statement not of comfort to you: "and so shall we ever be with the Lord"?

Being ever with the Lord?! We are Christ-people; we are a new creation, a spiritual race. We have a new home. We will be with the Lord and see Him in all His glory. We will be praising and pleasing our Father in Heaven. We will be continually in our new home with the Lord.

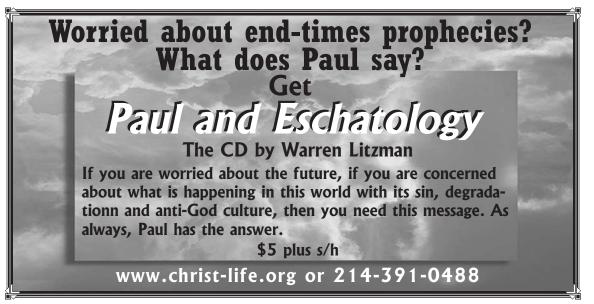
So whether the Rapture will be greeted with a glad shout and a happy smile or with a sad shake of the head and slump of shoulders and falling to kneel in despair, remember 2 Timothy 2:19,

"Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are His."

Do you watch the sky looking for your Redeemer to appear and snatch you out of this world, or do you love this world.

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love this world, the love of the Father is not in him" (1 John 2:15).

Oh, me? Yes, I am watching and listening, awaiting the sound of that trumpet calling me HOME! P



#### (Editorial-cont. from p. 4)

for self; for in the light of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who became poor to enrich us (2 Cor. 8:9), they are no less responsible than

(SIMPLICITY-CONT. FROM P. 5) Jesus said very clearly, "You must be born again." It couldn't be more pure and

simple. Paul said the heavy burden of sin and guilt, that feeling of unworthiness, was completely removed when Jesus, God's Son, shed His sacrificial blood on the cross. They entered into a joyous relationship with God, their Father, through the sacrifice of the Father's Son. Sin and death no longer held them in guilt and fear. They were set free.

Paul's pure and simple gospel did not end with this good news. Paul carries it a glorious and essential step further. God saw that mankind is too weak to maintain a relationship with Him. We are prone to wander even as believers. The newborn son or daughter lacks the inner strength for the long journey, so God's pure and simple solution is to put His own beloved Son, Jesus, in us when we are born again. He is the only one who overcame the world (John 16:33), and we need Him inside of us. He wins our battles.

It's so simple. Jesus abides in us, and we abide in Him over the long haul, from here to eternity. The who overcame the one world, the flesh and the Devil is in every born-again believer. The problem is others to give, each one "according to his ability."

When those of God's people whom He has prospered materially arise to face this challenge and meet this obli-

that many believers don't know it. Paul's gospel stresses again and again the truth that Christ is in us and we are in Christ. Christ in me is more than an overcomer. He's my friend, and like Paul, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13).

The old, weak and impotent me died with Christ on the cross. "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, Christ liveth in me, and the life I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the son of God" (Gal. 2:20). I have not only the person of Jesus, the Son of God, in me, I have His faith in me. I no longer live by pumping up my faith. I just rest and trust and abide in the person of Jesus who loves me and gave Himself up for me. His faith is now my strength. He does it all now, and His grace is sufficient. God's final supreme and finishing work of grace was placing His beloved Son into you and me.

Just as Jesus had the living Father in Him and could say, "the Father who dwells in me, He does the work," so, following this divine pattern, if I am born again, I can say that the Christ who dwells within me does the work.

Before Jesus' death and resurrection, He always responded to the faith of

gation, we shall be able to reach, not tens of thousands, but hundreds of thousands and more with the gospel of the grace of God and the Word rightly divided. ♥

the individual to whom He ministered.

• To the little woman with an issue of blood for twelve who vears. touched His robe, Jesus said. "Daughter, your faith has made you well" (Mark 5:34).

• When the four men The one who overlowered the paralytic through the roof to the feet of Jesus, Mark writes, "When Jesus saw their faith, He forgave the sick man's sin and healed him" (Mark 2:5). Once again, Jesus responded to the faith of the four men.

• When two blind men pleaded with Jesus to give them sight, Jesus said, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They replied "Yes, Lord." Then Jesus touched their eyes saying, "According to your faith, let it be done unto you."

So you see, before Jesus' death and resurrection, the emphasis was on the faith of the recipient of the healing, blessing or miracle.

The amazing thing is that after Jesus' death and resurrection, the emphasis is upon the faith of Jesus. This is brought out in the famous statement of Paul in Galatians 2:20, "Christ liveth in me and the life I now live, I live by the faith of the son of God who loved me and gave himself for me." Then in

CAME THE WORLD, THE FLESH AND THE DEVIL IS IN EVERY BORN-AGAIN BELIEV-ER. THE PROBLEM IS THAT MANY BELIEVERS DON'T KNOW IT.



Life in the Son magazine is the farthest reaching missionary of Christ-life Fellowship, reaching 45 countries, including 46 US prisons. We receive numerous testamonies from those whose lives have been transformed when they stumbled across a *Life in the Son* magazine in a doctor's office, on an airplane or some random place. You never know where or when God will place His Gospel of Grace right in front of one who is ready to receive a revelation of Christ.

While Christ-life Fellowship trusts and depends on the Lord to meet our needs, the Scriptures also say to make your needs known. It is time to let our readers realize our need to finance this missionary. Dispite reducing the size of this magazine from thirty-six pages to twenty-four, publication costs have increased twice in the past year, and another increase is in sight. This free publication is only possible through taxexempt donations. There are no other sponsors. While we are thrilled to provide this service to all who would receive it. it is time for those who benefit from it to step up and pay forward the blessing they have received so that others may also benefit.

We ask our readers to prayerfully consider a one-time or on-going contribution to the Christ-life Missions Fund, which pays for *Life in the Son* magazine.



Ephesians 2:8, "By grace are ye saved through faith, and that [faith] not of yourselves, it is the gift of God."

When I become aware that Christ in me is my hope of glory, nothing depends on me anymore; it all depends totally on the Son of God who dwells in me. His faith is the active strength within me. This, said Paul, is the mystery, the glorious secret that gives meaning, hope and joy unspeakable to life. *"This is the mystery, Christ in you, the hope of glory"* (Col. 2:27).

When I watched the pomp and ceremony of the Pope's visit to the United States recently, I saw the elaborate robes, the incense, the bowing and genuflecting, the idolizing of Mary and the Pope, the dozens of cardinals and bishops, I asked, where is the simplicity and purity that is in Christ? Paul is simply warning us, don't let anything cloud over and complicate the simplicity of the purity that is in Christ.

"By grace ye are saved" (Eph. 2:5). That's pure grace, simple grace, God's grace, grace alone, not grace mixed with a little legalism or a smidgen of law. Pure grace, grace alone.

The pure and simple grace is hidden in God's Son, Jesus Christ, "In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Col. 2:3). "He is all and in all" (Col. 3:11).

Paul says eventually and finally, all things will be gathered together in Christ. All things are going to be put under His feet. I'm so glad I have had a revelation of Jesus Christ, the one in whom this age will come to an end. My life is hid with Christ in God. When I have Christ, I have everything. Christ plus nothing equals everything. Christ plus anything equals nothing. I am determined to keep it simple and pure.

When I began writing this article for the Life in the Son magazine, I had no idea that just one week later I would be told by a doctor that I have cancer of the esophagus; I never expected a flurry of doctors appointments followed with CAT scans, X-ray's, gastroscopy and bone scans. Now I face surgery, possible chemotherapy and whatever else the doctors prescribe. But the wonderful thing is that I have perfect peace inside. Why? Because the one who is our peace abides in me. Christ in me is my only hope of glory. He is my peace in the midst of the storm. I live by His faith, not mine. "Whether I live, I live unto the Lord, whether I die, I die unto the Lord. Whether I live therefore or die, I am the Lord's" (Rom. 14:8).

Cancer is just another one of those pressures that will make me depend more on Jesus. I know that nothing can separate me from the love of Christ (Rom. 8:35). Absolutely nothing! Because Christ lives in me, nothing will divert me from the simplicity and purity in Him. ♥

# "THANK YOU"

**By Richard Moore** 

Dear Warren and Robbie,

Just wanted to thank you for the CD sets you sent. They are tremendous, and I love them. Hope you are recovering well. My gosh, Warren! What you and Robbie and your ministry have meant to me, I could never put into words....

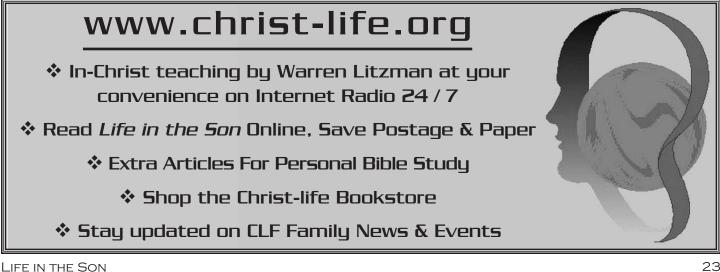
I grew up in a good home (a family disfunctional with sin, as families are) but by most standards, a good home in Scottsdale, Arizona. It could have been a good life. There's that illusion. But I got mixed up with drugs and alcohol at age 15. That began a downward spiral that culminated in me coming to know Christ at age 40, in a jail cell looking at thirty years in prison. That was in January of 1999. (Little did I know what God had in store for me.) I had already been incarcerated (except for a couple of brief periods of time) since 1987. This last release and reoffense was the last one. They had had enough of my antics (And I don't blame them. I had had enough of me, too!) That was twenty-five years of addiction. Oh do I know the defeat of that life—the grief, the despair, the hell of self-loathing, the nightmare we create for ourselves, destroying ourselves and everything around us, causing untold grief to those who love us and tried everything they knew to help. I understand this principle so clearly (John 12:25). I was at the point of death. But, in June of 1999, it pleased God to reveal His Son in me (three days after reading lessons 1 through 4 of your Line Upon Line series and crying out to the Father), and the most profound miracle I could ever have imagined

began that day and continues to this. I have been in prison for the last twenty years (Since 1987; I was twenty-eight at the time.) I will be 50 years old here in a couple of months. The last 9 1/2 years have been the greatest adventure and blessing I could ever have imagined—beyond anything I could have hoped or dreamed. The greatest priviledge and standing I could ever have is to be the recipient of God's grace, and a deliverance beyond anything man could conceive, greater than all the power and lies of Satan.

I had heard through the grapevine that you didn't know much about me, that all I ever talk about is the Lord and what He's doing through the message. Well, I have to say that nothing else is really worth talking about. Knowing Christ is our only life is God's only answer for man, and what an inconceivable anwer it is (1 Cor. 2:9-10). Blessed be His name forever. What a priviledge to live and share Christ in the freedom and liberty of His Spirit. To learn of Him and love Him. It is as you've said, true life in Christ is a constant miracle. He's bearing fruit which glorifies God (John 14:12).

But now I'm preaching to the choir. Oh, Warren and Robbie, this broken down old life has been turned around in a way I could never have dreamed. I thank my Lord Jesus Christ, but I thank you as well. You have been such a huge part of this. I really do feel like I know you, because I do—in Christ! May our Father ever bless you. Will be in touch, and thank you for allowing me to be a part of this ministry.

With you in Jesus, Richard Moore 🕆



#### At some stage you have to



To every believer there comes a time to distinguish between what appears to be good and what God wants.

In Galatians 1:16 Apostle Paul says, "When it pleased God who separated me from my mothers womb and called me by His grace to reveal His Son in me." For Paul to receive this revelation, he had to draw a line between what men wanted and what God wanted. He said, I have waited before God, and God has revealed His Son in me. When I wanted to know God, I did not go talk to Peter, James or John. I needed to hear from God as to what salvation was, so I went to Arabia and there God revealed His Son in me.

Peter metered out his gospel with law, which caused Paul to say, *that is another gospel*. He drew the line between what appeared to be good for man and what God wanted. When Paul received His revelation of Jesus Christ, he drew the line on the church at Jerusalem and went to the wilderness.

At some point, you have to make a clear distinction between **what you believe and in whom you believe**. The drawing of this line is something you do in your thinking, in your mind.



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In John 12, three or four days before Christ's death, Jesus of Nazareth had to draw a line. In the first year of His ministry, He had everything He could want right in the palm of His hand, but the issue was, would He live or die? And so, He had to draw a line. In John 12:24 He says, Except I, like a corn of wheat, fall into the ground and die, I bear no fruit. He says, Until I die, I have born no fruit. Real life to human beings comes out of death. That means He did not consider the healing of the sick, the casting out of devils or the raising of the dead as fruit. He said, When I die I will bear fruit. So, He drew a line in His mind. He drew a clear line of distinction as to whether He would continue serving mankind in love—healing them, delivering them, setting them free, helping the poor, needy people—or serve God and meet the need of God, which was for sons in His house. At the end of John 12 He says, Though I have done all these great works, I have not made believers out of these people. They have not believed me. He drew the line, and He became the Savior of as many as will believe on Him.



If you are going to grow and move on in the Lord, there are definite places in your life where you are going to have to draw some lines and say: *This I believe; this is truth. I will not continue as I have in the past; I will move on from this.* Your mind can forget and move on. Not destroy, but forget.

The drawing of the line is very important because until you do it, your mind is still fuzzy; you will still hang on to principles of doctrine. They are going to be bedfellows with you; they are going to be security blankets to you. You are going to reach back for them. Some may think, What is best for people is to help them in their present need, to get them out of their trouble, to preach health and prosperity so they don't hurt, they don't feel pain. But you have to draw the line between what we believe is best for them and what God needs. God needs a message now. He needs a people now who will broadcast the good news that "Christ lives in you."

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