

Life in the Son

A Journal of Grace and the In-Christ Message

Life in the Son

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Christ in you, the Hope of Glory*

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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Christ-life Fellowship
P.O. Box 170307
Dallas, Texas 75217-0307

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Cover photo of Knysna, South Africa.

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AFRICA

Denise Hayes
27-41-3744741
lanceh@iafrica.com
Port Elizabeth, Rep. of South Africa

BOTSWANA

Dave and Marge Venter
P.O. Box 623
Mahalapye
Botswana

AUSTRALIA

Jenny Asibal
clf_australia@optusnet.com.au
Preston, Victoria 3072
Australia

ENGLAND

Lance and Sharon Hayes
lance_hayes1@msn.com
07906688667

GERMANY

Dr. Mark Asante
masante@excite.com
Grabenstr. 31
Essen 45141
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

THIS IS HOW HE DOES IT THROUGH US



Every once in a while I am asked how we carry on and do things in our Dallas office. We, in fact, have a very small operation at this time. Through the years we have had many different people helping us do the work we felt should be done. Our workload has varied from time to time and the Father always supplied the help we needed. Today, however, and for the past few years our office has been managed by Robbie and I, with her doing the major office work. You might say Robbie has carried the load of work by herself. Christ working through Robbie has done what few people could ever do. Her hours are long; sometimes there are 18-hour days. Sometimes the work goes all night.

You see, it is a labor of love dealing with so many people who are coming into the new knowledge of Christ as their life. The phones ring constantly from people all over the world. They may have just heard a bit about Christ living in humans and are excited to learn more. They need to talk to some-

one who can answer their questions and send them information. This is what Christ in Robbie does so well; she alone can anticipate their needs and point them in the right direction. The same is true with the internet. There are hundreds of e-mails that must be dealt with. Most of the e-mails are testimonies from people who have just discovered the good news of Christ in them.

A person found a Christ-life book or magazine. It was so charged with spirit-life that they had to contact us. Sometimes a hungry heart would order everything they could afford, and needed it sent to them immediately. Or someone listened to the Live365 internet radio program and e-mailed us wanting more of the good news. Or someone watched a video and needed more information on the subject they were studying. You see there is no end of God's message stirring and enlightening hungry hearts.

While all this is going on, I stand ready to assist her in any way I can. Most

of my time is spent writing; I am always working on a new book. I also assist the company that produces our material. Then about the time we think we are making headway in our office, it's time to quickly pack our bags and catch a plane. We've got to get to Portland, Oregon, or Connecticut or South Africa, or wherever the Father leads. While we are gone, the office load stacks up and Robbie has to start all over when we return.

I want to thank this growing body of Christ-life believers who continue to supply the needs, financially and prayerfully as we carry on. This writing may sound like we are weary of the work, but actually our joy of life is seeing Christ being manifested in humans as the Father intended.

We thank the Father for our many helpers like Teresa Ferraro, who edits this magazine, and Tim Ferraro, who directs our video department. Also, the workers in our international offices in England, Australia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Malawi,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 20)

MODERN PRISON EPISTLE

Dear Warren and Robbie,

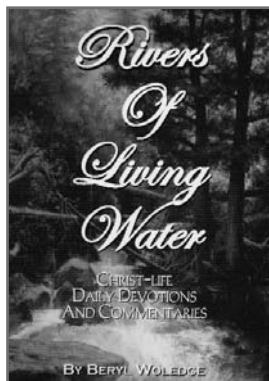
I am writing from Buckeye, Arizona, in prison. I am blessed to have met a man named Richard Moore over five years ago in my journey with the revelation of Jesus Christ in full bloom. At the time I was in one of the seven crises of the faith you so eloquently wrote about, yet, I was unaware that there were such common crises. Richard began to slowly feed me the bread he'd been eating in the Christ-life teachings, and it was then that I really began to find myself at odds. The teachings were so vastly different from the doctrines of faith I'd been raised under that many a day and night I'd find myself questioning their truth and validity. I was an avid student of the Bible for almost six years at this time, born again and spirit-filled, but yet here I was confronted with things so different from what I knew. I began to test the Word being administered through Christ-life fully expecting that I would find great error in such a strange doctrine if only I'd search.

Over a period of years this persisted and my fellowship with Richard blossomed more and more. I received many great things from the teachings, but truthfully, without the revelation of Jesus Christ it was still very much a peculiar teaching to me. I would have most likely put the Christ-life message away for simply being so peculiar, but one thing prevented me. It was this man named Richard Moore—this fellow prisoner of mine. Sometimes I would find myself in conversation with him having to take note that this brother of mine spoke as one with authority, as one in whom his words could not be resisted. Often I would walk away from our conversations saying to myself that no one has ever spoken this way before. You see, I hadn't heard that there was such a thing as manifesting Christ. I had read all the Scriptures enough, but somehow I'd missed this central thing—"Christ, who is one life." Richard manifesting Christ was the sole reason I came to the revelation of Jesus for myself. All those days of fellowship with him made me realize a stark contrast in the life of two believers—him and I. Here, we two men both had life sentences in prison, but one was free, and one was always thinking about freedom. I knew the Scriptures that promised, "He whom the Son sets free, is free indeed," but Richard knew the fulfillment of that Word of Life.

The plain truth is that I envied Richard for that freedom that transcends the circumstances and situations of common life. My praise to God is that I envied him until I didn't have to envy any more. Thanks to Richard I can now say that it finally pleased God to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles. Indeed, I am free! Indeed my spirit does cry out "Abba, Father."

I wanted to write you to establish our relationship and love in the Lord Jesus Christ officially. You and Robbie are truly showing the world Christ in us, as us. You are both the Son in whom our God is well pleased. Thank you so very much for your faithfulness in Christ Jesus. It has blessed me in a quantum-kind of way.

The grace and peace of our Lord and life, Jesus Christ, be with you, and be multiplied.
Love, Brother Ryan



Daily Christ-life Insights

Rivers of Living Water, by Beryl Woledge, offers beautiful insight into everyday living of the in-Christ message through quick, easy-to-read nuggets of truth from the gospel of grace Paul received from Christ. Learning Christ is not instantaneous, never complete. It is ongoing, incremental through revelation by the Holy Spirit.

Order online at www.christ-life.org or on page 32.

CONTINUING FULFILLMENT

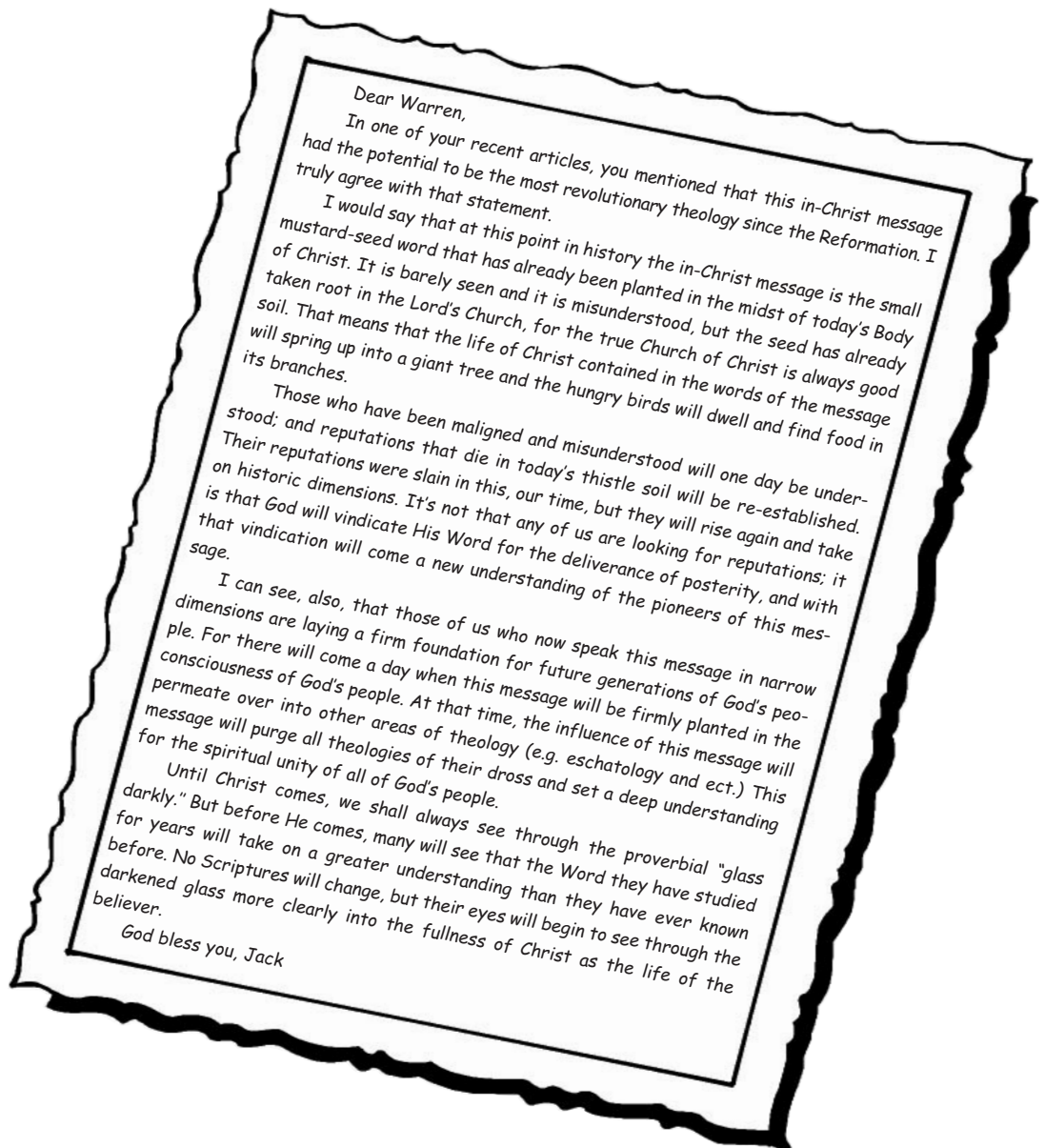
By Warren Litzman

Twenty-two years ago I received the following letter from Jack Leavitt of Albuquerque, New Mexico and placed it in this magazine. His letter was like a prophetic word of what would happen to the final gospel I was bringing to all who would listen. At the time, wherever I went I was opening up a new and far-out message most had never heard before. Of course there were some who said the Christ-life message would never be accepted by most Christians and certainly denominations would steer its believers away from it. For a while this is the way it went. But the Father knew exactly what He was doing. It would be necessary for Him to get the message to those who were ready and hungry to know Christ as their life. In the last twenty-two years, that pattern has been set. The Lord gets His message to the right ones and to the right places in His time. Look at what Jack wrote.

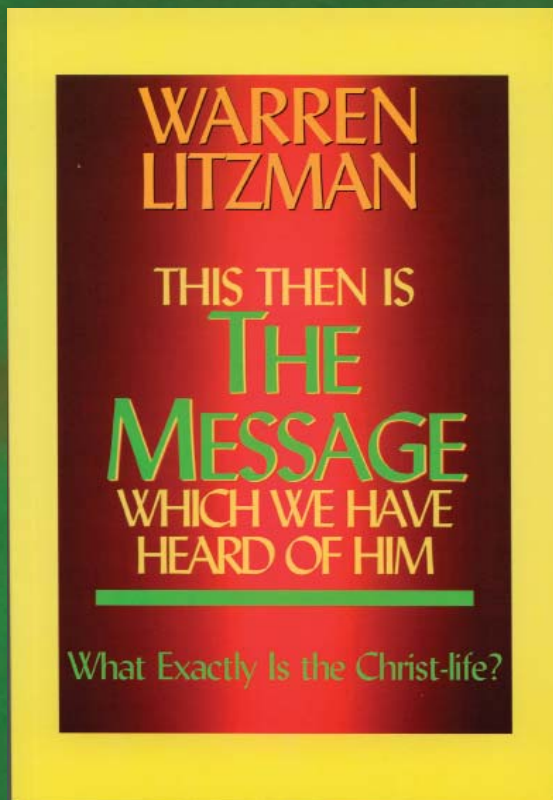
What Jack wrote was so, and the message has spread throughout all the Earth; at least we see that believers on most every continent receive the message. I don't

know about the continents at either pole, but I do know the message has carried itself, or perhaps I should say the Holy Spirit has seen to it that the believers who are hungry to know Christ as their life have received the message. This happens

because those who have received a revelation of Christ in them have prayed and supported the message financially to make sure that everyone everywhere has an opportunity to learn Paul's gospel. And to think, we have only started! †



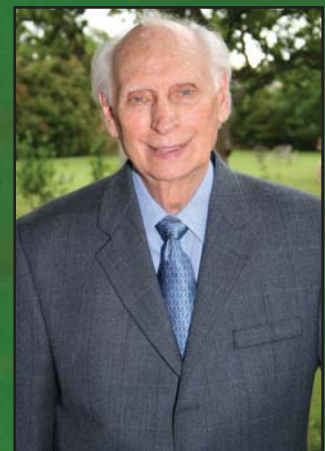
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Order form on page 24.



A PROPER FOUNDATION FOR UNDERSTANDING

By Frank Stigall

All messages of importance must have a firm foundation in Christ. Even though the Old Testament reveals Christ in types and shadows, this is not a good foundation for revelation knowledge. Types are left to the imagination of the teacher and to his cleverness to draw something of Christ from them. Shadows are something that can flee away. These methods do not make a good foundation for spirit revelation.

We have a saying in the Christ-life message, "You must start out right to end right." Truer words were never spoken. Most modern preaching starts from the Old Testament or the four Gospels, but none of these have the revelation of the mystery that was revealed to Paul.

The Tabernacle Has No Foundation

Let us take a look at the very popular subject of the tabernacle of Moses in the Old Testament. The pattern for the tabernacle was given by God and manufactured and built by Israel. Moses went to meet with God on top of Mount Sinai where he communed

with God and received the Law. At the same time, at the foot of Mount Sinai, Israel was making a golden calf to worship.

Almost everything about the tabernacle points to the sacrificial Lamb (Christ). The tabernacle was a portable tent without foundation and sat on the sands of the desert. Its purpose was evident. It supplied Israel with a visual representation of heaven along with the presence of God in the form of a shekinah cloud of glory. For many centuries, the Tabernacle was the center of worship.

This type of worship was continued even after the death of Jesus on the cross. Israel has continued with this worship to some degree while most Christians eventually pulled away. However, some groups are revising some of this Old Testament type of worship today. The death of Christ ended all that, but for many it seems to be religion as usual.

The End Of Carnal Ordinances

While this tabernacle as no foundation, it does have something else; it has roots. It was established and root-

ed in the law. Most teaching on this subject usually winds up becoming a mixture of law and grace. Hebrews 9:10 says law teaching is "*...carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.*" These carnal regulations were imposed on Israel until Christ comes as the Lamb of God. Well, time is up and reformation has come. Carnality has to do with the body and mind; it is opposed to the spiritual nature. Carnality comes about by giving a mind to the flesh. It is actually the mind puffing up the flesh. Being born again means we are reformed, made new, different. Old things are passed away—like the keeping of carnal ordinances—all things are become new. Carnal laws may make you feel superior, but they will never make you spiritual. Carnality is not spirituality.

Yes, You Can Be Saved And Still Be Carnal

We often think of carnality as being lustful, sexual desires, but if you hold to law teaching as a means of salvation or a means of keeping your salvation, then you are carnal because

IN THE DAYS OF MOSES SALVATION HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH BEING BORN AGAIN, BUT IT WAS A FORGIVENESS FOR THE SOUL (MIND). THERE WAS NO EXCHANGE OF NATURES.

you are keeping carnal commandments.

“And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ” (1 Cor. 3:1).

Hebrews 8:7 says, *“For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.”* The new covenant is to replace the old covenant because the old covenant was flawed; it did not make the believers perfect. The sacrifice of animals did not change anyone. How could the old covenant put an end to sin without the Lamb of God? This is the main reason for its flaw. Unless extreme care is given when teaching the tabernacle, you could be teaching carnality and a flawed doctrine.

The Flesh of Christ Rent

Even for the most discriminating mind, this often paints the wrong picture. Therefore, I highly recommend you read Hebrews chapters 8 through 10. You will see the Father is not approached through an earthly tabernacle any more. The approach is through Christ. The literal meaning of the *“rent veil”* is the flesh of Christ (Heb. 10:20).

The Direction of Worship

Let us look at something concerning the direction of this type of preaching. This type of preaching comes from the outer court

past the brazen altar, the washing at the layer of brass, the changing of the garment at the door of the Holy place, then a ministry before the Lord with incense, the lighting and trimming of lamps and the ministry at the table of showbread in the Holy Place. This required a lot of works to reach the veil, and still after doing all this, they could not enter the Holy of Holies, the presence of God.

Only once a year a priest could go into God’s presence with blood to present it on the mercy seat for the sins of Israel. This was repeated every year (Heb. 9:7; 10:1). Most, when telling this story, get so caught up in all that sacrificing that they lose sight of Christ.

This can make a mess out of the grace message. It is a clever way to manipulate Scripture, and it has very little substance for the spiritual man.

Soul Salvation

The striking difference between then and now is in salvation. In the days of Moses salvation had nothing to do with being born again, but it was a forgiveness for the soul (mind). There was no exchange of natures. This type of salvation with the offering of blood was soul salvation, and it had a blanket effect for all of Israel. All souls were atoned for at one time, and this had to be done every year. This salvation

required a continual maintenance program, for if you backslid you were headed for trouble, which required additional sacrifices just for you (Heb. 10:11).

“For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul” (Lev. 17:11).

“The soul that sinneth, it shall die” (Ezek. 18:20). There are many Scriptures like these in the Old Testament that speak of salvation for the soul.

In soul salvation there was no birthing. You can see it does not compare to the kind of salvation available today. Our salvation of being born again is required only one time and it lasts for eternity. We receive forgiveness of sin and an exchange of natures at the same time (1 Peter 1:4). This kind of salvation was never available in the Old Testament.

Unless a sharp distinction is made between Old Testament salvation and New Testament salvation, confusion could set in. I have yet to hear that distinction when the tabernacle is taught.

Remember, I said you must start right to end right. We must always start with Christ to end right. The direction of tabernacle preaching from outer to inner has no foundation for its beginning; it only has roots in the law.

Unless Christ is the foundation for all our preaching, then all will crumble.

In the Holy of Holies

The truth about the tabernacle is it depicts the journey of the high priest. For the most part, common people were never allowed into the tabernacle, only the chosen from the tribe of Levi. This speaks more about the walk Jesus took as our Great High Priest than of our walk.

It was in Heaven itself that Jesus presented His blood that makes the sinner clean. The tabernacle of Moses was only a shadow of things to come (Heb. 9:24). So our salvation today starts in the true presence of the Father wherein lies this cleansing stream. You were chosen to be in Christ. It is here you obtained your start (Eph. 1:4). It is not the offering alone that saves us, but the finished work and the life of Christ.

“For if when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life” (Rom. 5:10).

Preaching the Life-giver

Christ is the only foundation that is sure and true. Every Scripture preached and every interpretation made must be preached from the standpoint of the rock, Jesus Christ. He is the chief cornerstone, and He is birthed in us. Christ is the Word. It stands that any words we preach He must

supply. The Holy Spirit anoints us to understand spirit revelation in order that we may preach this life-giver. So it stands that this kind of preaching is one hundred eighty degrees from the Old Testament. All earthly types and shadows must give way when reality comes. And, folks, that reality has come.

You can see why many have not learned because the message is different now. There is no more sacrifice. The sacrificial altars in the tabernacle are no longer needed. Now, we are speaking of a new kind of temple, a temple not made with hands, and we are that temple. Salvation occurs in the place where the blood is applied in our spirit.

“What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?” (1 Cor. 6:19).

Often this kind of preaching brings confusion to the one listening. All the old temple worship was saturated and rooted in law. There was no lasting deliverance in temple worship and not surprisingly, the New Testament says it did not make the comers perfect (Heb. 10:1). That should be enough to throw up a red flag in our minds. Only in Christ is there any lasting deliverance, and that is because of the birthing.

Burning Bridges

Most Christians are the product of the past genera-

tions along with their own ideas. Many have found that they must break from their past in order to go into what the Lord is doing now. Had it not been for men like Martin Luther, Wesley, Calvin and many others who pulled away, we would still be living in the Dark Ages. They were all branded “heretics.” It is a historical fact that some must pull away from the past, burn their bridges behind them, in order to bring many to a greater revelation of Christ in them. Today’s preaching has become very weak in bringing the total truth. The gospel has been watered down to cunning fables, the imagination of man, odd things that do not matter, social issues, book reviews, all with no light, no life and no Christ-life.

On the way out of this wilderness of wondering you will meet many a priest still making offerings and threatening you to Hell if you do not do likewise. But don’t give up; don’t despair if this happens to you. You are reaching a new plateau of freedom from the law and can live in the reality of Christ in you. *“For we have not followed cunningly devised fables”* (2 Peter 1:16). †

UNLESS CHRIST IS THE FOUNDATION FOR ALL OUR PREACHING, THEN ALL WILL CRUMBLE.

From the Christ-life Dictionary

God-Thing, n. an intervention by God; often an event that can only be explained as God working in one’s life.

MANMADE DOCTRINE VERSUS PAUL'S REVELATION

PART 2

By Warren Litzman

Man's unfaithfulness springs from his ignorance of who and what he is in Christ. Man's unbelief comes about because his mind has not been renewed with what is God's plan and God's purpose for humans. Believers without a revelation of Christ in them find that hearing only a gospel that puts them to work, doing something religious, does not satisfy. Divine revelation requires a renewing of the mind. As Paul says in Romans 12:1-2:

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."

The believer must not conform to the world, for if he does, his mind will not be renewed. To place the whole of God's intent upon man's doing something is a literal conforming to the world, for

that is the natural, material and worldly way of doing things. Thus, it becomes absolutely necessary that the believer in his understanding of the Scriptures see what is God's intention from the beginning and what is the revelation of that intention to be found in the Scriptures.

It is my viewpoint, from the Christ-life, that the Father's original intention is to fill up His house with sons who have the very same nature He has. The giving of this nature was to be in the form of an incorruptible seed, Jesus Christ, who was placed in every believer (1 Peter 1:24).

Ephesians 1:4 states that all believers were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world. This is the heart of the initial intention of God. The revelation of God's intention is clearly brought to us by the Apostle Paul, who says to us in such places as Romans 16 and Ephesians 3 that there is a Father who has placed His own seed in the human being causing God the Son to be birthed in him. Though

such knowledge has been hidden for generations, it is now revealed by the Holy Spirit to hungry hearts. In the Christ-life, we believe this is the essence of the gospel and that all translation of the Scriptures and all understanding of the Bible must hinge on this union between the human being and the Christ God has birthed within him.

Several Factors For Our Consideration

Factor number 1: We must clearly see in everything we study in the entire Bible that God has a plan and that plan is materializing and working out according to His will whether or not men can see it or understand it. It is a fact that the New Testament brings to us a new and vivid insight into the original plan of God—a plan which was determined before the world ever started. It is also fact that the Apostle Paul introduces to us a new righteousness and a new sanctification, which are not entities to themselves at all, but are demonstrations and expressions of a

person, a person which God births in us in the born-again experience. Thus we must begin our understanding of the Scriptures by seeing that by what Christ did God was able to bring about a whole new way of living and establish a new people, a new creation race which had never been in existence before. This new race of people was not one of converted Jews or law-keepers but were a people saved by Christ in them.

Factor number 2: We must never equate the law in any form with Jesus Christ as our life. It is not my attempt, in the Christ-life, to separate the Law from the Bible because the law can be our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ. However, in everyday living the school master carries an imperative position in our lives. But, once we have finished its law training, it no longer holds an imperative position and, in fact, is only a memory. It has no daily operation in our lives, other than the information we receive while there. So it is with the Old Testament and the law. Their purpose is to give us a schooling that brings us to Christ. Once we see Christ who is our all in all, we come to the understanding of the new creation race.

Factor number 3: It is imperative in our searching of the Scriptures that we see Christ as our life in an entirely different form than anyone in the Old

Testament or even the four gospels saw Him. The reasoning for this is that the Old Testament and the four gospels bring the message that we must be faithful to God and that if we are unfaithful we must offer a sacrifice to atone for our sins or we will not be acceptable to God. The death of Jesus Christ did away with this sort of operation, for God knew that no man could live the law by whatever degree of strength and power he might have. Thus God set into operation what He had planned before He ever created any man. All were to be His children by being re-birthed; they would be in Christ, and the only faithfulness they would have would be the faithfulness of Christ. The responsibility of the believer would be as Paul plainly admonishes in the new creation race gospel—that he must grow up into Christ, come into full stature and cease to be an independent self. Unless the believer is able to take hold of these facts that help him see these Scriptures in this light, he cannot grow up in Christ as he should.

Factor number 4: *Grace* is the all-consuming word for the new creation race gospel. There are many who read the Scriptures seeking only justice. There are many who accept grace and justice in the same understanding and frustrate the true gospel by such commingling. This is one of the

major problems Paul had in bringing his gospel. The Judaizers preached a commingled gospel of law and grace, somewhat like the gospel religion preaches today. To preach a gospel combining Old Testament and grace is to deny the hearers a true gospel. Mixing law and grace is producing a new unscriptural message that is poison. The Old Testament is written to show that mankind could never, within themselves, please God. The new-creation gospel of Paul says that mankind will displease God if he tries in any way to earn the blessings of God already bought and paid for by Christ at Calvary (2 Cor. 5:17).

Factor number 5: Eternal life is now. Man-made religion has done all within its power to keep the eternal-life truth from the believer. This is accomplished by their preaching law or commingling law and grace. Never forget the programs of churchianity cannot succeed unless the believers work hard to accomplish the goals set by others. Always, in such programs, the law hangs heavy over the workers that if they do not work hard God won't bless them or will cause some awful judgment to come upon them. This is pure law and the opposite of this is pure grace.

Remember, anything spiritual needed in Christ's Church is already promised a successful end in the Scriptures, and

TO PREACH A
GOSPEL COM-
BINING OLD
TESTAMENT
AND GRACE IS
TO DENY THE
HEARERS A
TRUE GOSPEL.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 21)

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU BELIEVE, IT'S IN WHOM YOU BELIEVE

By Warren Litzman

During the course of the journey from Earth to the Father's house, a traveler is often confronted with various clichés and terminologies denoting a special phase or important incident. One term that has caught on with Christ-life believers is the word *knowers*. I suppose the word has many different meanings to different people, but to me it helps to define the essence of who we really are in Christ. Even so, cliché words can be confusing to some and misleading to others.

I recall an incident that happened in one of our Fellowships with a particular student. I had said that a true believer was a “be-er” rather than a “doer.” My pronunciation of the word *be-er* confused her. One day, she stopped me in the middle of a lecture and said, “Why do you keep saying we must be beers?” I realized then that my inflection of speech was making the word *be-er* sound differently to her than I had intended.

Thus, it is important to properly define terms used in a move of the Spirit such

as we are seeing now. We have no term that is more blessed than *knowers* in the Christ-life. Long ago, as a young believer, I found great blessing from Paul's statement, “*I know in whom I have believed*” (2 Tim. 1:12). This statement has become a real anchor to me in that my knowing Christ as my life was the main part of all my believing. The importance lies not so much in what I believe or how I believe, but in whom I believe. Through the years, I found myself using the term *knowing* so much that the word has evolved to the term *knowers*, a term not to be found in the dictionary.

Paul was the First Knower

Even though the Father's intention before the foundation of the world was laid (Eph. 1:4) was that all believers were to be chosen in Christ, it was still some 4,000 years later before the Father actually brought it about. This great moment finally came about when the Apostle Paul went into the Arabian

Desert (Gal. 1:17). It was here that he received the revelation that Christ was in him and was his only life. Paul was the first recorded one to see the Christ-life in the believer.

This knowledge that Christ was his life constituted the greatest knowledge that the Father had ever released to mankind. While volumes of information had come to mankind during the centuries, none was so liberating as this. It was the secret God had hidden from the prophets and men of old, but finally it was released to make man a completed being for the first time (Rom. 16:25).

This places Paul in the most strategic place in all of history. Paul had already received Christ as his Savior on the road to Damascus, but he did not know Christ was his only life until the Father revealed it to him in Arabia. He did not just receive a new experience; he got knowledge—the knowledge that Christ was his only life. This made him a knower—the greatest knower who had ever lived.

This knowledge, the revelation of Christ as his life, was destined to flow throughout all of Paul's writings. From that point on, he would say again and again that the greatest need of the regenerated believer was knowledge—the knowledge of what really happened when the believer was saved. The heart of that knowledge was that God had actually put another life, the Christ-life, in the believer; but more than this, God did not expect the believer to live his own life anymore; the life he was to live was Christ (Gal. 2:20).

Along with this great knowledge came the revolutionary truth that God would no longer look to the believer for anything. The Father had already experienced expecting one of his own (a created being) to become something. This was the creature, Lucifer, who already lived in the Father's house and was called "the son of the morning." God knew that if this so-called son of the morning, already living in the Father's house, could not please Him then there would be no way that any

other free-moral creature could ever please Him.

The Father planned to place a part of Himself, God the Son, in everyone who needed and wanted salvation. By placing another life in the believer, He would have the kind of sons He wanted.

The Beginning of Real Knowledge

It was this great truth that made Paul's writings different. God had revealed to him the great secret that literally held the world together. He would eventually say that everything in the universe depended upon and functioned only because Christ was God's total everything (Col. 1:16–17). This was an unbelievable knowledge that could only be known by the teaching of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 2:9–10).

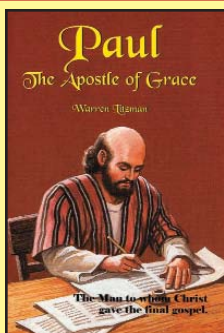
Almost every one of Paul's prayers centers on the believer asking the Father for this knowledge. This was a must because Paul saw that even though believers were saved they had no knowledge that Christ was in them. It is mind-boggling to think that the Father would do such a thing and not base it

on the ridged condition that the believer must understand what happened. Yet, that is just what He did; it was pure grace in action.

I speculate that His reason for doing this was that He might be justified to bringing many sons to His house, and also to bring about His process of adoption. Because of His past experience with Lucifer, He knew that creating a son and placing him in the house was not good enough. He needed a son who had His very nature. However, while the Son's nature is a grace-gift, the issue of the re-birthed son having the knowledge of this is to be left to the exclusive teaching of the Holy Spirit (John 14, 15 and 16). As with Paul, it is only by the teaching of the Holy Spirit that the believer actually comes to the knowledge of life. It was the revelation of Christ as Paul's only life that prompted him to say that real spirit-knowledge only came to the believer by such a revelation (Eph. 1:17).

This great revelation of Christ as the life of the believer is the thrust of the move of the Spirit today, not only that Christ is the

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Paul, The Apostle of Grace

By Warren Litzman

Why would God choose the most unlikely man to deliver His final gospel, the gospel of grace, to the world? Discover who this compelling man is and the significance of his writings.

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THE WORLD IS NOT OUT OF ORDER. SATAN DOES NOT RULE THE WORLD. THE SITUATIONS OF LIFE ARE NOT HOPELESS. THE REAL PROBLEM IS OUR LACK OF SPIRIT-TAUGHT KNOWLEDGE.

life in the believer, but that the believer—and Christ in him—have become one (1 Cor. 6:17). This is a re-birthing of the believer, Christ birthed in him. It is Christ joined to the believer; and, by this miracle, Christ has become the believer's new-creation life. This is the only life the Father now sees in him. Christ and the believer have become one with Christ being the all in all.

Now the believer is ready to receive the knowledge of how he is to live. He must learn that his new life, Christ, forms the first basis of knowledge necessary to 'fit' the human being into the world as the Father intended from the beginning, before Creation.

The world is not out of order. Satan does not rule the world. The situations of life are not hopeless. The real problem is our lack of Spirit-taught knowledge. More and more, believers are seeing Christ as God's all and in all to those who are born again, and this is where we see God moving among His birthed children today.

Laying a Sure Foundation

When Paul received his revelation of Christ, he immediately began to

teach the liberating knowledge he had received. Galatians 1 tells us that after the revelation, Paul went to Jerusalem to share this great truth with the brethren there. He was somewhat rejected, as those brethren knew Christ so well in the flesh (2 Cor. 5:16) that they could not understand Christ being in them.

This very likely was the basis for Paul's lack of fellowship with them. Regardless of this, Paul returned to his missionary work and firmly established believers in the Christ-life. Body of Christ churches sprang up all over, and believers were seeing Jesus as their life. It was some years after the experience in Galatians 1 that he wrote the letter to the saints at Rome. His Roman epistle is written to establish saints and is consistent with the flow of all of his writings, that the spiritual criterion of the believer is Spirit-taught knowledge (1 Cor. 2:5-7).

Paul recognized that just as he had been Spirit-taught the Christ-life, he had to help all believers see their place in the mystery of Christ. Looking into Paul's method of bringing this knowledge to believers is my mission in this writing.

Until today's believers come to this knowing that fits the Father's original plan, they will live under the bondage of religious ideas. Any and all religious ideas will be set aside when the Spirit-revelation of Christ takes place. As the believer sees Christ as his life, he will become obsessed to be one with Him. No longer will there be tolerated any division of Christ (1 Cor. 1:13), such as a believer saying he is a Baptist, Methodist, Catholic or Charismatic. We will come to see that every believer who has been re-birthing will come to the wisdom and knowledge that only the Holy Spirit can give, and then we will see that we are one in Christ.

The Key Is in Romans 6

Now there comes into focus the continuing work of the Spirit keeping the believer in the knowledge. It is imperative that every believer see the all-important truth that Paul saw. He saw that even though one may have a revelation of Christ as his life, the mind has no regenerated power working in it and will often revert back to the old way of thinking.

To emphasize this, Paul often says, "With my mind"

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 21)



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THROUGH MY LIFE

By Howard Goss

(Howard Goss is a student learning the Christ-life message and is preparing to go to the mission field in Mexico. He attends special classes at the Dallas Fellowship.)

As I go through my life now, I seem to live in a different world. Growing up, I had always felt displaced, strange and thought that I was born in a wrong time. Being raised a Catholic and converting to a Protestant when I was seventeen brought a new realization about Jesus Christ and the law. It was a joyous time then—joining the choir, evangelizing, attending all-night prayer meetings and doing church. About two years later the results of that conversion brought a heaviness that eventually became something that I wanted to escape—a workload. Escape I did, into a world of living for self, by self.

After twenty-seven years of drugs and alcohol, I was sentenced to die by pancreatitis. At my deathbed, the Lord healed me completely. Being made aware of what He can do was a life-changing experience. Shortly after, I rededicated my life to the Lord and went back to church. My sobriety lasted about six months, and then I was a church-going user and was mixing law and grace for seven years.

During this wretched time, I just kept falling and then getting up. All things came upon me and destroyed all my hope in myself and in life, to the point of contemplating suicide. But I had this love in me and a knowing that I had yet to find what I was looking for—the manifestation of the glory of the Son of God, to enter into a world of revelation and knowledge of knowing Him, who is within.

Line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little is the journey I was taken by the Holy Spirit to discover the only life that I had. In times past, it made no sense when the Lord had told me that He would live my life for me. As it pleases the Father do we come into knowledge and understanding of our new life in Christ. Oh, how many times did I have to endure the pain and death of previous knowledge, thoughts, ideas and experiences that had collected through the years, and I continue to this day! Paul said that we die daily so that His life may be lived.

Jesus answered Nicodemus, Except a man is born again he cannot enter into the things of God (John 3:3). Nicodemus could only see by the flesh and not by the Spirit. He was sure puzzled. How can a man enter the womb a second time? (John 3:4) *“That which is born of flesh is flesh: and that which is born of Spirit is Spirit”* (John 3:6). You may be born again, but the understanding of that *birthing* should be realized before you can see what God is doing. The birthing is the great idea of God placing another life in the believer and having that life live through the creature. It is an act of love—a total person—and is not a later event. The very moment of salvation, everything Christ is you are, no more, no less; you are eternally complete. Salvation is a person, and you are completed by His life in you. (Col. 2:10) The Cross was where your life was ended, for you were crucified in Him (Rom. 6:6). You were buried with Him, and you are risen with Him (Col. 2:12) and are seated with Him in heavenly places (Eph. 2:6). You are in Him

who God has made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption (1 Cor. 1:30). The knowledge of the mystery is only revealed by the Holy Spirit and has been kept hidden from the princes of this world until now for our glory (2 Cor. 2:7–10). It is Christ in you, the hope of glory (Col. 1:27).

Someone once said that whoever gets to you first has got you. If theology, doctrine or denomination beliefs are your foundation, it will have to give way to Christ. *“For no other foundation can any man lay, than is laid which is Jesus Christ”* (1 Cor. 3:11). Your foundation is a person, Christ. Foundation is the very base of what you build upon. When you do not build upon rock, it is not a sure foundation. Rightly dividing the Word of Truth is essential in knowing what God is doing (2 Tim. 2:15). In Acts 28:28, Paul set forth the preaching of the revelation of the mystery from Israel to the Gentiles. The dispensation of grace began. We have to distinguish between the different dispensations and peoples that God was dealing with.

There are five dispensations; to be brief we shall discuss law and grace. Two kinds of law exist. The prominent Law was given to Moses for the children of Israel. They had to do certain things to obey God. This Law was never kept or completed by Israel for 1,700 years from Moses to

the Day of Pentecost. If they broke one, they had broken all, which kept Israel from being blessed of God. As a result, God had to do something about the Law. Paul says after Christ has come we are no longer under the Law (Gal. 3:23–25). Jesus came to fulfill the Law (Matt. 5:17), and God can now place Christ in us to fulfill the



Law. We fulfill the Law by Christ in us.

The second law is the Judaizer’s law, which teaches that one cannot be saved by just believing on the Lord; one must be circumcised, go to church and do godly works to prove a change has taken place. Countless God-loving believers are led astray by their self-efforts to please God. What pleases God is knowing Christ as your life. It is by grace that we are saved and not by doing right, for if by this then Christ is dead in vain (Gal. 2:21). Paul, in righteous indignation, spoke against such believers in Galatia (Gal. 3:1–2). *“You who have begun in the Spirit,*

are ye now made perfect in the flesh?” (Gal. 3:3)

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

The Cross hath brought the forgiveness of sin—past, present and future (Col. 1:14) and reconciled us to God, and we are saved by His life (Rom. 5:10). Grace is a person; and as we deal with all the situations and circumstances that come our way, we, by our union and love for Him, are victorious in all things. Be renewed in the spirit of your mind (Eph. 4:3), and let this mind be in you that is also in Christ Jesus (Phil. 2:5). As we begin to see who we are in Christ; we begin to know the Father as He intended from the beginning.

As I look back to the life I have lived, I realize my life was not to be fixed, I was given a life of another, Christ, to be lived as the real me and to reckon my past dead. I have come to know that I now live in a different world with a new heavenly Father, an eternal life with peace and rest and a glorious union life in Christ. A world of seeing the unseen and of knowing that all things are by Christ and for Christ (Col. 1:16). And I go through all for the excellency of knowing Him. The life I live in the flesh is Christ, and I go forth to live His life as me forever. Amen! †

COUNTLESS GOD-
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APOSTLES, EVANGELISTS AND SUPERIORITY

Anonymous

In some Christian circles there is a progressing inflation of “*super*.” To lead one by-the-name-Christian to the Lord is apparently not worth mentioning anymore. In our days it’s “in” to exchange our great ideas to trigger a super-rival. It fills some with shame to admit to going to a small neighborhood church, a place where not the building is the top-priority, where no big program is going on and no \$100,000 band is drumming the guts out of the pew-sitters. For the up-to-date Christian next to the “my house,” “my car” and “my boat” now “my super-church” belongs to the mandatory repertoire.

Gone are the times where some ministers of the Lord came together to share their experiences and their ups and downs in their walk with the Lord in a “simple” conference. Today we celebrate super-events where the number of church members, the number of published books, or the financial transactions of their ministries are exchanged to outnumber one another. And of course the event must be extraordinary—in other words *super*—

and therefore it’s always good to employ the supernatural: healing, prophecy, tongues, etcetera. The final note always emphasizes how powerful—in other words how super—it all was. And of course Christians, like any other people, prefer to go to something “powerful” rather than to something “boring.” The thing is only, by what “powerful” is measured!

Don’t get me wrong, I believe in the supernatural gifts! But I wonder if that complies with God’s plan, to utilize them just as event-attractions.

In such an environment one has to be somebody, one has to be important to get to the microphone, to get at least some attention. Of course becoming important is a little bit more difficult in Christianity compared to the secular world, because the Bible prescribed humility to the Christians. This, initially, raises the bar for the self-marketing considerably. However, the five-fold ministry got rediscovered and, with it, some prestigious titles. At least apostles, prophets and evangelists stick arguably out of the

mass and supersede ordinary pastors and teachers. And sometimes it appears, that the ranking between these five is more important in the debate, than the content and the function. However, a hundred feet outside of the church, ministry or campus area it is not a big deal anyhow. If someone claims to be an apostle, an evangelist or the emperor of China, who can tell the difference—and who cares?

But the people a hundred feet outside of the church, ministry or campus that are the lost sheep, apparently they care pretty less about self-inflated positions and self-promoted authorities. But perhaps they would listen to somebody, who has something to say.

The biblical meaning of *church* is not a building, or the higher the seating capacity the better. The biblical meaning is the Body of Christ.

In the process of neurological research, scientists have tried in numerous variations to have a body survive apart from the brain, apart from the command-bridge, so to speak.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 21)

THOUGHT-PROVOKING QUESTIONS

By Cliff Gardner

If sin had no consequences, would I still care about God—would I still choose to love Him, to know Him? Is my relationship with Him built on fear and appeasement? Do I serve Him to be rewarded, to be blessed? How is it really between God and me? Am I so in love with Him that worship is not something I do, but rather what I am? If it were finally proven that there is no Hell, would I still want to go to Heaven to be with God forever, or is Heaven just an alternative to Hell for me?

Why do I want to be used of God? Do I want to gain some kind of authority over others while being used by Him? Do I need to be heard and known as a man of God? Am I willing to be unheard and unknown if that is what is in God's purpose and plan for me? Am I content to have no other person think highly of me, or is my walking with God more playing to the crowd—that is, is my Christian life more group orientated than God orientated? Have I come to think that my relationship with the group defines my relationship with God? How important is a deep, intimate, personal and

immediate relationship with God to me?

Am I aware of, and hearing, the voice of God in my heart? Can I tell when it is my mind speaking or Him? Do I know my weaknesses and that which distracts me so easily? Do I ever really get quiet to hear God speaking to me, or do I rely on devotional tools to speak for Him? Do I get my spiritual food directly from God, or do I like to have it predigested by other leaders and then fed to me?

What does the term *spiritual growth* mean to me? How do I define it? How do I know that I am actually growing spiritually? What yard stick am I using to measure spiritual growth? Do I think that I can somehow force it with some kind of spiritual growth hormones? Does it have more to do with what I know than who I am? Am I content with my spiritual growth, or do I think I must be discontented—like a 10-year-old who wants to be 16—to be motivated to grow spiritually? Am I at peace with God about this, or does considering this subject agitate me, and make me feel like I will never really be close to God?

When do I think I will actually grow up spiritual-

ly? Can and will this happen before I go to Heaven? Is it easier for me to let other people define my spiritual maturity rather than trusting God to let me know His heart about where I am with Him in this? Do I feel more inclined to read a book about this rather than look to Him and let Him guide me into the Scriptures where he can speak directly to me? Do I know whether or not I am involved in an assembly of believers where the leadership genuinely wants me to grow up in Christ and not be constantly dependent on them, or would they rather keep me in a constant state of dependency on them?

What did Apostle John mean when he said, “...our fellowship is with the Father and with His son Jesus Christ”? Is that where my fellowship is, or do I think of fellowship just in terms of gathering with other people? Have I ever been moved by God's divine love to serve the needs of others? Have I experienced Christ manifesting Himself through me by laying down my life that others may live? Am I drawn into the fellowship of the Father and the Son? †

GLEANINGS FROM HEBREWS

PART 2

By Don Byrd

Hebrews 1 shows a radical transition. At this point in history, God is about to reveal Himself as a Father and the fact that He has a Son. It is this *“I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son”* in verse 5 that caught my attention as I pondered this chapter. This relationship comes to the forefront in the book of Hebrews because there is no greater theme to be found in time or eternity!

This Father-Son relationship is compared to everything else of importance to the Hebrews! Of course, this is the Father-Son relationship wherein God is the Father that He desires to be and the Son is the Son He desires to be. It was God’s desire to be Father from before the Creation of the world. The only thing we know about God before Creation is that He was a Father and that He already had a Son. Out of this Father-Son relationship came the purpose for Creation.

It is worth noting that this transition in verses 1 and 2 was also from time past to the dispensation of grace! God only reveals

Himself as Father in the realm of grace. God will be Father only to those who are born again during the dispensation of grace and then throughout eternity where grace will be eternally manifested between our Father and His sons. God was Father only to Jesus Christ prior to the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2. On the Day of Pentecost, God became Father by the birthing of born-again believers through Christ in them!

The Father-Son relationship functioned perfectly between the Father and His Son. This union functioned so perfectly that it caused them to function as one instead of two. *“And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one”* (John 17:22). There absolutely is no greater relationship to be found than the relationship between our Father and His Son. I call this the *“I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son”* relationship (Heb. 1:5). This is the relationship presented in Hebrews 1:1-5. This relationship is a nature-to-nature relationship, a one-

to-one relationship and a face-to-face relationship. This Father-Son relationship is contrasted to everything and everyone that the Hebrews considered important in their relationship with God through the law and its rituals.

Before and after Creation, the Father-Son relationship functioned in total perfection. The love of the Father was received by the Son, and the Son reciprocated that same love toward His Father in the exact same manner in which He received it. This totally pleased the Father and it totally pleased the Son! The Holy Spirit is the administrator of the love between the Father and Son. Out of the perfection of the Father-Son relationship came the desire of the Father and His Son to share this same union with myriads of other birthed sons. This desire brought about the creation of all that exists. If the Father and His Son are totally pleased with this *“I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son”* relationship, then certainly other birthed sons should



also find total fulfillment in it also!

“Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds” (Hebr. 1:2).

The Son became Creator and brought all things into existence that were created.

“For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: and he is before all things, and by him all things consist” (Col. 1:16-17).

After the heavens and the Earth were created, God created Adam and Eve to live in the Garden of Eden.

“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth” (Gen. 1:26).

The purpose in all of this was so that God could establish a face-to-face, one-to-one, nature-to-nature, relationship with mankind,

which is the same relationship the Father has had with His Son since before Creation.

It is obvious that a transition is being made in verses 1 and 2 in the way God deals with mankind! I define “time past” as the period of time when God functioned toward mankind without His Fatherly attributes! This is what I call an



“Old Testament God,” meaning it is the time when He manifested none of His Fatherly attributes toward mankind. Why? There were no birthed sons of God during this time, other than Christ. Everything and everyone preceding and following the dispensation of grace, except Jesus Christ, is included in time past. The only time our Father manifests Himself as Father to anyone on Earth other than Jesus is during the dispensation of grace. This means that outside the

dispensation of grace, God is not Father to anyone! Why is this? To be a Father requires a birthing of His own offspring by God in His capacity as Father.

In the eternal Father-Son relationship, there is no longer a need for anything that is a product of Creation. What do I mean by this? This relationship existed prior to Creation, and now all of our Father’s birthed sons are found in this relationship that existed prior to Creation. Everything needed to make this relationship a reality for the believer is found in Christ Jesus our Lord.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ” (Eph. 1:3).

All spiritual blessings for the born-again believer are found in Christ! The only way mankind could have the Father-son relationship was through a birthing from God the Father Himself.

When the world rejected Jesus Christ, our Father’s Son, they simultaneously rejected grace—the whole dispensation of grace, everything and everyone within the realm of grace. †

TO BE A FATHER
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AS FATHER.

(EDITORIAL—CONT. FROM PAGE 3)

the Philippine Islands and Germany who carry a lot of the load spreading the Father’s message where they are. Then, of course, our missionaries, the hundreds of

believers, who daily share and teach the Christ-life message where they are. These are so wonderfully used of the Lord that I have no words to describe it. In it all, Robbie and I are thrilled

to be a part of the Father’s final plan and gospel. We want, along with the Apostle Paul, to be able to say in the end, *We fought a good fight, we kept the faith and we finished the course.* †

anything a believer might desire in his daily walk has already been paid for by Christ on the cross.

Factor number 6: All new translations of the Bible are literally a combination of God’s Word and man’s effort to understand God’s Word. The Scriptures have been retranslated by man into what best fits man and his understanding. It is for this reason I have suggested in the Christ-life message that grace is most definitely pronounced in Paul’s gospel by the King James Version of the Bible. It is only in the grace message that the revelation of Jesus Christ is plainly written. It is a fact that most believers, with all of their new versions of the Bible, have yet to come to a revelation of Christ as their life.

But even with a King James Bible, as the centuries have proven, people missed the final gospel given by Paul in his epistles. The King James Bible is clearer in bringing this truth, but in the end, it isn’t the Bible you use, it’s whether the Holy Spirit opens the Scriptures to you.

Factor number 7: The great mystery of godliness given by the Apostle Paul is anchored in his text in Ephesians 1:4, where he states the first thought of God recorded in the Scriptures concerning God’s plan. Here he says that all humanity was chosen to be in Christ. Not just a few, not just the chosen, but all humanity. Some religions grabbed hold of this, and other like texts, and proceeded to prove that only a handful

of people were chosen to be saved. Their interpretation of the Scriptures has turned many away from God’s pure grace. I believe that all who were created in God’s likeness and image are the ones chosen to be in Christ. Obviously, not all who are created by God will accept, but whosoever believeth can be saved. When man decides what the Scriptures will say in their translations, there will always be a lot of people left out of God’s blessings.

The Scriptures should always be read with the effect that Christ is talking directly to God’s birthed children. This can only take place in Paul’s gospel (his epistles) because Paul’s epistles are where Christ speaks directly to the born-again. †

I BELIEVE THAT ALL WHO WERE CREATED IN GOD’S LIKENESS AND IMAGE ARE THE ONES CHOSEN TO BE IN CHRIST. OBVIOUSLY, NOT ALL WHO ARE CREATED BY GOD WILL ACCEPT, BUT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH CAN BE SAVED.

I do this or that (Rom. 7:23, 25; 8:5, 7). He knew what all knowers must learn: that the mind is constantly making choices, and those choices are based on our love toward God and that the love of God flows out of the believer’s life as a result of his choices, choices made

by the mind. Thus, a knower’s true tool of service is his mind.

Let us take a look at a knower’s use of his mind.

“Likewise, reckon also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 6:11).

The important word in this verse is the word reckon. It is a knower’s word, and in its highest sense it points to knowing and making knowing work. To reckon, for a knower, means to count on the Christ within for all things, never leaning to one’s own understanding. †

The results spoke a clear language: it’s not possible! But in Christianity we try again and again to let the Body of Christ live apart from Christ. And some don’t get it: it has never worked out and it never will.

We are not only the corporate body of believers but individual bodies through which Christ can work and operate. Actually, that’s one of the most prevalent parts of the Christian life on Earth: we have to yield our mind to Christ, and then He can operate through us—

through our bodies. We are the vessels; He is the content. And the content is what the people need. As long as the content is Christ, it’s perhaps secondary what somebody’s title is. But if the content is not Christ it’s deception, no matter what the title is. †

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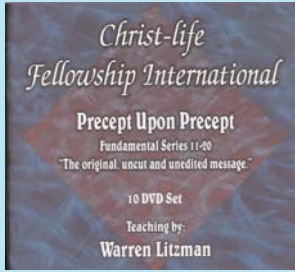
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