

LIFE IN THE SON

A JOURNAL OF GRACE AND THE IN-CHRIST MESSAGE



IN THIS ISSUE:

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE BIRTHING AND THE CHRIST-LIFE

THE GOSPEL OF ISRAEL

DO WE EXALT PAUL

CREATION OF MAN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editorial by Warren Litzman3
Principles of the Birthing and the
Christ-Life (Part VI) by Warren Litzman4
The Gospel of Israel (Part II) by Erwin Redinger6
Testimony on "My Notes on the Final Gospel"
by Vickie of Georgia.....10
Do We Exalt Paul? by Pastor Don Fomer.....11
After His Kind by Ray Ogles.....14
Philippines16
The Perfect Product of Patience by Alice
Scott-Ferguson19
Spiritual Combat Veterans by Cliff Gardner20
The Sacrifice by Ed Gardner21
Creation of Man by Don Byrd23

Mission Statement. This magazine bears a message of God's grace to a God-led audience worldwide. We have but one mission: to publish the ever-expanding truths of "Christ in you." We welcome you to join our celebrated circle of readers.

Order books and CDs/DVDs online at clfdallas.com
or mail request to P. O. Box 170307-0307,
Dallas, Tx 75217

LIFE IN THE SON

*A Journal Dedicated to the Great Message,
Christ in you, the Hope of Glory*

Founder/Editor: Warren Litzman
Executive Editor: Robbie Litzman
Assistant Editor: Anita Litzman
Communications Director: Terry Litzman
Production Offices Manager: Robbie Litzman
P. O. Box 170307
Dallas, TX 75217-0307
Phone 214-391-0488, Fax 214-391-5035
Website: www.christ-life.org
Email: litzman@christ-life.org

GIFTS

All gifts are tax-deductible. From the first edition, *Life in the Son* has been a work of faith. Those who are blessed by the message and want to support its worldwide outreach with a contribution can send their gifts to:

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

Sign up for a free subscription at clfdallas.com

CHRIST-LIFE FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR NEAREST CHRIST-LIFE OFFICE

DONATIONS MUST BE PAID WITH POSTAL MONEY ORDERS IN U.S. DOLLARS

AFRICA

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

MALAWI

Francis Kambala
P.O Box 2694 Lilongwe
franciskambala@yahoo.com

ZIMBABWE

Contact Person:
Ruth Bramson
263912320289
rubybramo@gmail.com

SOUTH AMERICA

Eduardo Rodriguez
Bogota-Colombia
reduardoro@aol.com

ASIA MISSIONS

Roger Bodary
rbodary@hotmail.com
Bangladesh

AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND

Jenny Asibal
clfaustralia@bigpond.com
Preston, Victoria 3072
Australia

DOULA, CAMEROON

Pastors Shawn & Annie Smith
Cameroon, West Africa
shawnjrsmith@yahoo.com

GREAT BRITAIN

Lance and Sharon Hayes
lancehayes1@msn.com
07906688667

GERMANY

Mark Asante
masante@excite.com
Dusseldorf Germany

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

Wine Unat
ILIGAN CITY/CAGAYAN DE ORO
wineunat@yahoo.com

SWEDEN AND FINLAND

LEIF AND KERSTIN EMELEUS
ROSLAGSVÄGEN 35 A
SE-74842 ÖRBYHUS
PHONE: +46 722510911
LEIF@ARTEMELEUS.COM

CLF PRISON MINISTRY-USA

Frank Blakeman
fblakeman@tpcg.org



EDITORIAL

BY WARREN LITZMAN

We thank God for the spreading of the gospel. I am talking about THE GOSPEL, the only gospel, the one true gospel given to us in the Scriptures where it is so stated and recorded. I am being bold in this. Some people say their preachers preach the same gospel, but a little differently. I answer that by saying, “Do you read the Bible, do they preach out of the Bible?” We can only get together if we preach out of the same Bible; we can only get together if we are preaching the same message. We are trying to get that difference established around the world. It is in my heart that the gospel of Jesus Christ is to be short lived in this world—it is the last and final gospel.

What then is that gospel? It is the gospel given to us by the Apostle Paul. People often say their preacher is not preaching that gospel. Paul plainly says if anyone preaches any other gospel than that which I (Paul) preach let him be accursed (Galatians 1:8). We must pray for them that they come to the revelation of the mystery which is: Christ in every born again person and that is their true hope of glory (Colossians 1:27).

If Christ lives in you and you came to know him through the message of a living Christ in a human being, then it makes a lot of difference in where you go with it, where you

take it, what message you hear, what gospel you hear, where you go with that gospel you hear. That’s why we think we are so much smarter than the Bible. We think we are somebody because we are so intellectual and walk in our own wisdom. We do not have our minds in the Bible. Get your mind and your eyes and your nose into the Bible and study Paul’s gospel, the gospel of Grace not commingled with law. I am seriously talking to you because time is short. Get into the one true gospel. At least 146 statements made by Paul say “in Christ,” “in Him,” “in Whom,” and that puts you into another world—Christ’s world. Is Christ your world—your everything?

We have calamities in this life because we are not following the preaching of Paul. There are many worlds we are put into such as sickness, problems with our business, with our family, with our finances—many different worlds we must deal with. Trust the Lord for how to handle sickness, disease, and suffering. But you cannot treat that as your world. Gospel power is not your world. Your ability to do things for God is not your world. Are you going to let Christ be your world and are you going to be part of it? You were put into Christ. It was His intention that all the other worlds you live in would be set aside. Your

world is “IN” Christ Jesus.

Why do you think God put Jesus in you? For example, Christ is the only healer. I started out preaching that if you went to hospitals you were not a Christian, but that changed because whoever was in charge of me took me to the hospital and the Holy Spirit had to teach me differently. There he taught me that I was in a place where I could trust God in another way. The doctors were going to take care of me and I told the doctors that I was going to trust God that they could take care of me.

This world that I live in today is Christ. I have been translated into the kingdom, this world, of Christ. I may have all kinds of problems, but this is my world in Christ. I have to get that fixed in my mind because that is not an easy concept to understand. You notice the things that are happening in this world and you have to realize you are a Christian and you do not live in this world. That is what we have to tell the world—what a Christian is, and why. We are Christians locked into Jesus Christ. Every day is Christ’s day. He has something good for you every day. Carry Jesus into the different worlds you live in: the sickness world, the workplace world, your family world, the economical world. Trust Him as to how to handle each world. †††

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE BIRTHING AND THE CHRIST-LIFE

PART VI

by Warren Litzman

VI. GROWING UP IN CHRIST

The Christ-life message and its truths are the basis for every sphere of the Christian's life. This message and truth is founded solely on Christ as us, as well as Christ in us. Christ as us died, Christ as us lives now. This is the essential aspect of identification. It means that identification is not experimental, but is a matter of placing our faith in the facts of God's Word. Justification has to do with the birthing, identification has to do with growth. This growth is to continue throughout eternity.

1. CHRIST IS TOTAL EVERYTHING

When we receive Christ as our Lord and Saviour, and He is birthed in us, all that He is and all that He has is ours. We, in fact, become heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. (*Romans 8:17*)

- 1.1 The believer now grows step by step in faith and understanding. When the believer is able to receive and appreciate the benefits of the riches of *Romans, Chapters 1-5*, then he is free to take on the reality of the wealth of *Romans, Chapters 6- 8*.
- 1.2 Until the believer has understood the birthing, he cannot enter into the full identification by that birthing of who and what he is in Christ. (*Romans 6:5; 2 Corinthians 5:21*)
- 1.3 The Christ-life believer is now identified with Christ in death, and by this, is freed both from the penalty and the power of sin. He is now ready to put into his understanding the fuller aspects of identification that because he died with Christ; he will also live with Him. (*Romans 6:8, 10; Hebrews 7:16*)
- 1.4 It is most important to note that God provides the facts before He calls for faith. Unless this is done in this sequence, the believer cannot have rest. If he sees his identification, both to the death and resurrection of Jesus, there will be no offer or struggle to reckon, because he is a knower.
- 1.5 It would be absolutely impossible for the Father to even suggest to us counting ourselves having died to sin, if there had not been a birthing. Neither could the believer be called upon to consecrate himself to God if there had not been a birthing.
- 1.6 Unless the believer is fully aware of these facts, which have to do with identification, he will find it very difficult to enter into being one with Christ. To reckon upon our birthing is to see it clearly, to believe it, to count upon it, and to receive the appropriate practical reality of it with thanksgiving. (*Colossians 2:7*)
- 1.7 That which we reckon, because of our birthing, becomes experimental in our Christ-life. As we count ourselves to have died unto sin on the cross, the effect of the cross is applied by the Spirit to the Satan nature. Then as we reckon ourselves dead daily, that same power of the

cross is applied to any thought we might have that we have a life of our own. (*2 Corinthians 4:11*) Self is crucified, held in the place of death, as we are led into sacrificial paths of His glory.

2. GROWTH IN THE CHRIST-LIFE

Being one with Christ in our daily walk can be no more powerful than the doctrine we hold and by which we are held. Simple steps should be as follows:

- 2.1 We see and understand the birthing. Our identification with Christ is clearly understood, for we died as Him and now live as Him.
- 2.2 We become aware of the need to be separated in our Christ-life from self unto Christ. This is the joining together of wife/believer with husband/Christ in perfect being one with Christ.
- 2.3 We are then able to exercise faith in the completed work of our birthing by reckoning upon the facts of our death and resurrection in Christ.
- 2.4 On the basis of this knowing, the Holy Spirit is free to translate the truth of our birthing into our daily one with Christ walk.
- 2.5 The Christ within the believer is extremely practical in all His operations. He uses everyday means in bringing about our birthing into our daily experience of being one with Christ.
- 2.6 By this, the Father is able to bring about choice, the choice between us being a self-unto-self or a Christ-self. It is here we see the importance of contrast bringing choice and choice producing love, for love is the ultimate need of God. Our knowledge of the birthing is what brings about an end to the works of the flesh. It is a knowledge which says for me to live is Christ. (*Phil. 1:21*).
- 2.7 The entirety of identification, bringing growth, is directly related to our reckoning upon the birthing and the cross. The Holy Spirit therefore keeps alive the dying process in us, that life might come to others. (*2 Corinthians 4:12*) Conversely, when the believer is self-centered and refuses the knowledge which comes by the Holy Spirit, he will think little of others and everything of self. The principle is firmly stated by Christ in Luke 9:24. The Christ-life believer will learn that the Holy Spirit patiently uses everything in the universe converging powers to bring the believer to the grain of wheat stage, where he sees Christ only as life. The believer at this stage must learn to hate his life in this world. John 12:25. ♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦

(Part VII of VII in next issue)

**SOME STAFF & GRADUATES
FROM THE PHILIPPINES
FELLOWSHIP WITH
WARREN AND ROBBIE**



THE GOSPEL OF ISRAEL



by Erwin Redinger
of South Africa

Part II of IV Parts

ABRAHAM

Even when the Lord called Abraham He had the Church in mind. When He lavished His promises on Abraham it was always with all the nations in mind.

1. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed. (Gen. 12:3)

2. I will make you the Father of a multitude of nations. (Gen. 17:5)

3. And in him shall all the nations of the earth be blessed. (Gen. 18:18)

4. And in your seed (i.e., Christ), (Gal. 3:16), all the nations of the earth shall be blessed. (Gen. 22:18)

5. And by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed. (Gen. 26:4)

6. And in you and your descendants all the families of the earth shall be blessed. (Gen. 28:4)

7. The covenant which God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, "and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (Acts 3:25)

Have all the nations of the earth been blessed by Abraham and his descendants? Of course, they have blessed the world because it was to them that God entrusted His oracles, i.e. The Law, the Commandments and the Prophets. It was from them that we received the entire Bible. (Acts 7:38, Rom. 3:2)

ABRAHAM'S SEED

It was also when Abraham's seed, (in the singular, i.e. Christ: Gal. 3:16), came into the world that the Gospel was preached to the whole

world. Yes, the whole world has been blessed through Abraham and his descendants. Even the apostles descended from Abraham, and so the list goes on and on, but the basic truth remains, whether you are Jew or Gentile, you still need to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ if you want to be saved. (Rom. 3:9-20) If we play this down by teaching genealogies and the likes, we have missed the Bible. (Titus 3:9)

THE NATION PRODUCING THE FRUIT OF IT

"Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures. The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God will be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof" (Matt. 21:42-43.) Which is the nation producing the fruit of it? Obviously, the Holy Nation, which is made up of all who truly believe and live in Christ Jesus the Lord. (1 Peter 2:9-10). Those who are strangers and aliens in this world, who abstain from fleshly lusts, who are keeping their behavior excellent amongst the Gentiles. (1 Peter 2:1-12). These come from both Jews and Gentiles.

The truth is, the more God entrusted to people the greater is their responsibility, and the more will be required of them. (Luke 12:48). Perhaps even the Jewish nation needs to take cognizance of this and seek God's face as to what they

should do.

Thank God for every Jew who has believed in Christ and has received Jesus as his Messiah and Saviour. These continue to be a blessing to the world as they help to shed the Light in a world of doom and gloom.

Is God finished with Israel as a nation? Or have they still a role to play? I believe the Bible is clear enough and tells us that in the end times, Israel will again play an important part in the earthly history of the world and also of the Church. (Rom. 11:15-26).

THE FIG TREE

However, a lot of confusion is generated by incorrect interpretations of Bible passages and Biblical symbols. For instance, when people say that the fig tree in Matt. 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21, refers to Israel, it derails the correct interpretation of other passages in the Bible and make people come up with some weird things which in actual fact are conjecture and nothing more. In fact, Jesus tells us clearly what the fig tree is illustrating, namely, all those things He has mentioned that will occur in the end times. If then, people make it out to be Israel, then they must be consistent by saying the fig tree Jesus cursed is also a symbol of Israel. (Matt. 21:18-22; Mark 11:13-26; Luke 13:6-9), which would mean that they will never again be of any consequence in the world, and that never again will they be a blessing to the Gentiles, and never again will anyone

eat of their spiritual fruit.

Yet I believe the opposite to be true. They will one day turn to the Lord and be a great blessing to the nations of the world. (Rom. 11:15). They will be a part of the true Israel of God (Gal. 6:16), and united together with the Church, they will be the one new man in Christ Jesus. (Eph. 2:14-15).

People are led into all kinds of diversions to get them occupied with side issues and even wrong concepts, just to divert them from Christ and His Church. If there is one tool the devil has successfully used to make people move Christ out of the center of their lives, it has been these weird and strange teachings, he makes them venerate Israel, he promises them escape from tribulation and problems, he promises them health and wealth all with one thing in mind, move Christ out of the center of their lives, and let them concentrate on these things.

These things make inroads into our fellowship with Christ, because we occupy ourselves with matters which have very little or no eternal value. These things often feed our carnal desires and leave our spirits starved.

CONDITIONS OF DISCIPLESHIP

I am not ashamed of being of German descent. I was born that way, and had no say or choice in the matter. If I were to say, "I'm ashamed of being German," that would be like saying, "Lord, you made a mistake with me." And that would be arrogant and cheeky. So I don't expect the English, or the Jews, or anyone else, to be ashamed of their nationality. But if our nationalities come in between us and Christ then there is a serious problem there. Jesus says, "If anyone wants to come after

Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me." It is essential that not even our nationality comes in between us and the Lord.

There are some people, who will not give up their nationality, not even for Christ Jesus, and this disqualifies them from being true disciples. And that is why I feel there is a problem when the Jews put their "Jewishness" before everything else. This applies to all peoples regardless to which nation they belong, Chinese, Indian, French, etc.

To surrender everything to Christ is a condition of discipleship. You don't cease to be a German, English, Jewish, etc. But you surrender it to Christ, so that He may have all of you and fit you harmoniously into His body.

Coming back to them saying that Israel is the fig tree of Matt. 24, Mark 13, Luke 21. I remember being invited to listen to a videotape of Barry Smith of New Zealand. He believes that Israel was the fig tree. So according to what Jesus said, the generation that witnesses the fig tree sprouting, i.e. Israel becoming a nation, would see the Son of Man come again. In his talk he mentioned that a generation is 40 years, so we can expect Christ to come back before 1988, as this was the year of Israel's 40th anniversary as an independent state. He was quite bold in declaring that Christ would come back before 1988. When I heard that, I said to the brethren that 1988 would come and go and Jesus will not have come back. They wanted to know how I could be so adamant. I assured him that I knew what I was saying. This man was basing his beliefs on a wrongly interpreted scripture. The fig tree is not Israel. So when Christ did not return by 1988, this man assured

the people in another tape that he spoke to some rabbis, who believed that generation is not 40 years, but 50 years.

I again assured them that 1998 will come and go and Christ will still not have returned. So what happened? Did He come? No! They were basing their assumptions on a scripture that does not say what they say it says. What does it say? "When you see all these things taking place." They are there for everyone to read. I tell you when you see all these things taking place, you can know for certain that the coming of our Lord is at hand, and you will not be disappointed.

The fig tree is all these things He talked about, which will take place when the time of His coming approaches, wars, rumours of war, famines, severe persecutions, Christians betraying one another, false prophets, false Christs, lawlessness, the Gospel preached in the whole world, great tribulation, the sun darkened, the Moon not giving its light, the powers of heaven shaken, stars falling from the sky, then He will appear and they will see Him coming with power and great Glory. So the generation that sees all these things will witness His return.

THE VINEYARD AND THE STONE THE BUILDERS REJECTED

I do not know whether there is something like an unconditional covenant. The covenant always involves two parties. If one party breaks the covenant, then the covenant ceases to be. People have referred to God's promises to Israel as being unconditional. In other words, God has placed no obligation on Israel, but will bless them regardless of what they do. I don't

read it like that. For when God gave Abraham the promise, he told Abraham that even an outward sign, which is a relatively small thing, i.e. failing to circumcise their children, will mean they have broken the covenant and will be excluded from the covenant. (Gen. 17:14)

Again and again God says to Israel, I will bless you if you walk in My ways and obey Me, but if you fail to do that, you will have to bear the consequences and be dispersed among the nations, e.g. (1 Kings 9:6-9).

However, God was always ready to forgive, if they repented. To me this does not sound like an unconditional promise. So when it comes to the secret things it is best to leave them to God, for, the secret things belong to God, the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us, for us to do them. It was when Israel as a nation rejected the Saviour whom God sent that they experienced the consequences, namely, being scattered all over the earth, which to a large extent is still the case today. In the Old Testament and the New Testament we read the parable of the vineyard as depicting the nation of Israel. Isaiah states that the Lord planted a vineyard and expected to reap good grapes but this vineyard produced worthless grapes. (Is. 5:4). Jeremiah tells us what the bad grapes are in the Lord's eyes. They did not deliver the oppressed; they mistreated and violated the strangers, the orphans and the widows, and shed innocent blood. (Jer. 22:3.) If they promoted justice, kindness, and mercy, they would have produced good grapes. It is not good enough, to claim one is part of the Lord's vineyard, which He has planted. One must show it in one's life and produce good fruit.

(Gal. 5:22.)

Even Peter had to discover that God looks at the fruit and not at a particular nation. I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right, is welcome to Him. (Acts 10:34, 35.)

Jesus told the Elders of the Jew a similar parable of a vineyard which a certain landowner planted. He built a wall around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a tower. He then leased out his vineyard to vine growers, and he himself went on a journey. When the time of the harvest came, he sent his servants to collect his produce (i.e. the rental), but the vine growers mistreated his slaves, beating some and stoning and killing others. So he sent his son, thinking they will respect him, but this made them more determined to kill him, because they said this is the heir, if we kill him, we will inherit the vineyard. Jesus then asked the chief priests and Elders, who were listening to Him, what the owners would do to the vine growers? They replied that He will bring those wretches to a wretched end, and will rent out the vineyard to other vine growers, who will pay him the proceeds at the proper season. (Matt 21:33-44.)

The leaders were not conscious of the fact that they were pronouncing a verdict on themselves. "Jesus saith to them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, "The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? Therefore I say unto you, The kingdom of God will be taken away from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof" (Matt 21:42-43.)

It was not long afterwards that they called for Him to be crucified and so they rejected the stone which ultimately became the chief cornerstone.

It is clear that God is looking for fruit, and the ones who are producing the fruit will be part of His kingdom. (Gal. 5:22-23). No one can produce fruit who does not abide in Christ. (Jn. 15.)

Nowhere is it more clearly stated what the stakes are, than when Peter responded to the question of the top leaders in Israel, "By what power and in what Name have ye done this?" Acts 4:7.

The leaders could not deny that an outstanding miracle had been performed on a man who had been lame from birth. This man had never walked in his life. Now not only was he healed, but instantly he had the strength to walk and leap while giving glory to God who healed him. The leaders themselves admitted that a noteworthy miracle had taken place which was apparent to all who lived in Jerusalem and they could not deny it.

Peter took this opportunity to tell them that it is by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom they crucified, whom God raised from the dead, and it is by His name that this man stands here in good health. (Acts 4:10.) Then he refers them to the prophetic word which they had fulfilled when they rejected Jesus. "He is the stone which was rejected by you the builders which became the very cornerstone." (Ps. 118:22, Acts 4:11.)

Then follows the most profound statement in the Bible regarding the salvation of mankind, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby

we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). And this is not the only verse in the Bible that declares that salvation can only be had through Jesus Christ. Nothing else, no matter what, can save us; only Jesus Christ the Son of God. This is supported by numerous Bible passages and statements; e.g., “He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life” (1 John 5:12). It cannot be stated clearer than that.

It was the builders who rejected the stone which became the chief cornerstone. This tells us something. The builders are the ones, who know about building, and they are supposed to know what material can be used where, and in their opinion the stone was not good enough, and had to be rejected, but they were proved wrong.

This principle stretches throughout the whole Bible. God does not need self-sufficient and proud people, and very often He sidelines

them, and reveals Himself to humble and often simple folk. At times He reveals himself to people who are regarded by others as stupid and backward, but because they know they are nothing, it makes them good candidates for the Lord’s revelations. (1 Cor. 1:29-27)

The biggest hindrance to Revelation is pride when one thinks one knows everything and no one can tell me anything. Who are the builders today? The theologians and their accomplices. Who has trouble in believing Christ and His redemptive work? Again it is them. (There are some lovely men who are theologians and yet believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Some of them are my friends). All of us need to personally humble ourselves and ask God to please reveal Himself and His will to us, then we have the promise, “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (Rom. 10:13).

Not only was the stone rejected by the builders, but it also became a stumbling block to them—a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense (1 Peter 2:8, Is. 8:14 and 15).

Many people are offended by Christ and stumble over Him. One cannot mention Him to certain people and you get their backs up, and they get offended. How sad, especially when one thinks, He is the only one who can save them, and Him they reject. Peter quotes the Old Testament which says, “Behold I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone and he who believes in Him shall not be disappointed.” Then he continues, “This precious value, then, is for you who believe. But for those who disbelieve, “The stone which the builders refused has become the head stone of the corner” (Ps. 118:22). “And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence . . .” (1 Peter 2:8); Rom. 9:32-33). **(Part III of IV in next issue)**



Testimony by Vickie from Georgia on “The Big Book,” entitled “*My Notes on The Final Gospel*”

My personal experience for almost thirty years as a member of a cultic, abusive group, centered in Houston, TX, taught me “in and out of fellowship” and “confession of sin for forgiveness” along with aberrant teachings such as “the blood of Christ that had nothing to do with our salvation” and that God will kill you if you leave this ministry’s teachings. Many other strange and legalistic doctrines were quite the opposite of Warren’s general message. I well remember when God finally taught me through another ministry that the Bible did not teach the Christian to confess to be forgiven, we are forgiven people in the Body. Therefore, I first thought, “Then what is left in my relationship to God?” My entire contact and relationship under this teaching was confess, get back in fellowship, and search for the next sin and do it all over again. I was frightened of having “nothing to do” without the “obsession with confession.” But God knew that through it all I did want the truth, and He brought it to me in his own time.

Then God brought me the truth about our English Bibles. I learned that I could trust my King James Bible, and not the other versions. The reason this was important to me was that I had been taught in that aberrant, cultic, abusive church that we could not get the truth from reading the Bible ourselves, but only from the pastor’s teaching from the pulpit, which was recorded and distributed by tape (now CD and DVD). We were under orders to listen to at least one one-hour-plus

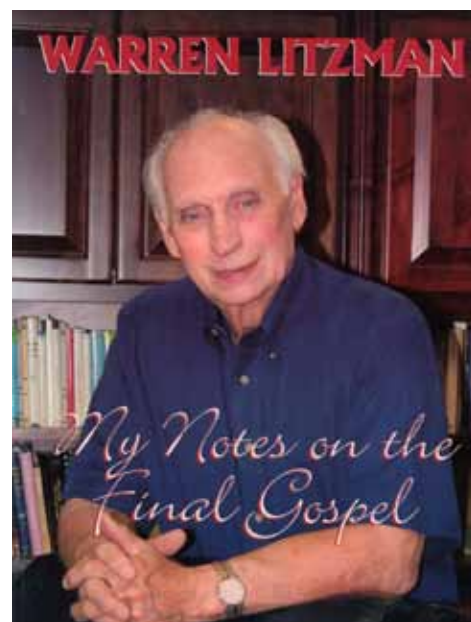
tape every day, regardless of what else was going on in our lives. Those living within driving distance were obligated to attend the church’s five or six days a week teaching sessions, called Bible class. Taking notes and being perfectly silent were also necessary. So I did all this and more. It was a long term disaster, and it is still going the same way with much the same result now that the founding pastor, R. B. Thieme, Jr., has passed away. He could do no wrong in his followers’ eyes, and that is still true now that his son is in his father’s pulpit.

Next, God brought me into contact with true right-division and I have been reveling in that as it settles so much confusion and strengthens confidence in the entire Bible. I have been called a heretic for some of the beliefs that this entails, but I am certain that God has revealed this to me directly from Scripture. I know the strong resistance among untaught Christians comes from fear! And it also comes from denominational tradition which is so rigid about every detail regardless of what Scripture actually does say. I have learned not to be afraid any more of being wrong, but of being stubborn in that error once it is pointed out to me.

All along God has brought sources to my attention that spoke about Christ as our life. I did not understand much about this or how it worked, but I wanted to know more. Then a friend gave me a copy of *Life in the Son*. I subscribed and look forward to it each time it arrives. Occasionally, there are

things I can’t agree with that seem to downgrade the deity of Christ, but I have not read anything Warren writes that does this. Over all it is a valuable teaching that is worthwhile to read through and struggle with. It “exercises” me. So I decided to order some of Warren’s books. I did and have enjoyed them very much. I make notes when I have questions in the margins, and I re-read them. I want to be sure I understand what is being said before I form an opinion as to whether something is not right. Giving the messenger a chance to have his say is important when I come across something new.

So, I am thankful to have the “big book” where much of the most important teaching is included. It enables me to evaluate the entire message and form opinions fairly. It lifts my spirit and gives me great joy to hear Paul’s message endorsed in these evil days. Thanks so much for the ministry that produces it. ~



DO WE EXALT PAUL?

by Pastor Don Fromer

Do we (in the Grace Movement) exalt the Apostle Paul? This charge has frequently been leveled against us by those who oppose our stand concerning the uniqueness of Paul's apostleship, his message, and his relationship to the Church, the Body of Christ.

My own response (and perhaps the characteristic response of our movement) has been to dismiss the charge as obviously false. I have wondered if such accusations might be born of frustration over the failure of our critics to Scripturally refute our position. Surely nobody who understands our teaching could seriously believe we would give to Paul anything that rightfully belongs to the Lord!

Recent exposure to such criticism, however, has convinced me some of these critics do not understand our teaching, and are quite sincere in their belief that Paul has become something more than a mere mortal man in our theology. They really believe we identify more closely with Paul than with Jesus Christ! Perhaps it is time to take their criticism more seriously and explain our position more carefully.

Paul tells us the Israelites were "baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea." In other words, they identified with Moses as their God-ordained human leader. They became followers of Moses and gave him honor appropriate to his divinely ordained office. They did not worship him nor did they exalt him in an inappropriate way. They simply recognized his authority as the

man God had chosen to be the dispenser of His instructions for them. Through Moses they encountered Christ! (see 1 Cor. 10:1-4)

Jesus honored Moses in a similar way, urging His disciples to obey the Scribes and Pharisees as the rightful successors of Moses. They were to honor the Scribes and Pharisees as their fathers had honored Moses—as dispensers of the Law. Yet any idea of "exaltation" is immediately squelched in the context as Jesus goes on to describe the hypocrisy of these same men. Thus, Jesus taught that one can honor the God-ordained authority of a man without exalting the man. (see Mt. 23:1-3)

Jesus also honored John the Baptist saying that no greater man had ever lived before John! Did Jesus thereby exalt John above that which is appropriate for a man? Of course not! He merely honored him for the importance of his God-ordained role in God's unfolding plan of the ages, (see Luke 7:28)

We are instructed to give honor to the Elders who serve among God's people and double honor to those who labor in the Word. Does this constitute "glorifying men rather than Christ?" (see 1 Tim. 5:17)

Moses (in his time) was God's man of the hour. Those who identified with him as their leader who looked to him for the latest word from God and followed him wherever he led were, in the truest sense, following God! It was God who placed Moses in that place of honor. And when they murmured against Moses they

were, in reality, murmuring against God!

John the Baptist also made disciples. He was the forerunner of Christ, preparing a nation for the arrival of her King. God appointed him to that office. Jesus honored him with a tribute to his greatness. His disciples followed him. But John decreased as Jesus increased and another phase in God's unfolding plan was initiated. What had made John so great? Was it not the office to which God had appointed him? But now the King was in the midst of His people and those who believed in Him worshipped Him and exalted Him as Lord. He alone is worthy of such adoration. But He was rejected by the rulers of the people and delivered to Pilate to be crucified, (see John 3:23-30 and Luke 7:28).

The early chapters of the book of Acts record the continuing ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ (now risen from the dead and glorified at God's right hand) through the Holy Spirit. Once again God reaches out to the chosen nation through the Apostolic ministry. Peter now occupies the place of honor as God's primary spokesman. Although Peter exercised the authority of his office and was appropriately honored, he refused the worship of men. (see Acts 2:5).

With Israel's continued rejection of her King, we now come to a further development in God's eternal plan which had been kept secret through the ages. Saul, the leader of the persecution that was raging

against Christ's followers, is miraculously converted and commissioned to become Paul, the Apostle of the Gentiles. He receives from the risen Christ, over a period of time, detailed instructions about God's new creation, the Body of Christ, (see Acts 9).

He received detailed instructions concerning God's new creation, the Body of Christ.

What Moses was to God's people in the Dispensation of Law, Paul has become to God's people in the Dispensation of Grace. The Jewish Kingdom program has been set aside. Israel has temporarily lost her place of privilege before God. No prophecy can be found concerning this new dispensation nor can it be found in the Gospels. New relationships now exist on both vertical and horizontal planes. New instructions are needed. The new order must be defined and explained. God's purpose for the Church, Christ's Body, must be revealed. It was for this purpose God commissioned the Apostle Paul.

As Israel in her wilderness wanderings identified with Moses, so believers today must identify with Paul. Make no mistake about this: to be a follower of Christ today you must be a follower of Paul. The Kingdom program for which Christ was preparing Israel during His earthly ministry has been temporarily set aside. The final offer of that Kingdom was given to the nation Israel at Pentecost by the Apostle Peter and was rejected. We do not "exalt Paul above Christ" when we recognize that his instructions for the Body of Christ supersede the Kingdom instructions given by

Christ in His earthly ministry and those given by Peter at Pentecost. We simply recognize Christ has spoken again through Paul to show us **our place** in God's eternal plan, (see 1 Cor. 4:16; 11:1; Rom. 11; Acts 3; Gal. 1: 2).

Paul is God's spokesman for the present dispensation. The Gospel he preached and the program Christ inaugurated through him were given to him personally by the risen, glorified Lord Jesus Christ. Thus Paul could say, "Yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we Him no more." And thus Paul informs us that "Jesus Christ [in His earthly ministry] was a minister of the Circumcision to confirm the promises made to the fathers." (see Gal. 1:2; 2 Cor. 5:16; Rom. 15:8)

By contrast, Paul characterizes his own ministry as the revelation of a "secret hid in God from before the foundation of the world." He identifies himself as "the Apostle of the Gentiles," and then adds, "I magnify my office." Paul declares he was called to be a "pattern for those who should afterward believe." Yet when we affirm that Paul is indeed a "pattern" for believers today we are charged with blasphemy. He indicates that only by his unique gospel (the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery) can believers today be established in the faith, (see Eph. 3:1, Tim. 1:16; Rom. 16:25-27).

In various ways, inspired by the Holy Spirit, Paul says, "Be followers of me, as I also am of Christ." No doubt there are other ways to follow Christ: we could follow the pattern of His earthly life but we do so to our own peril! Jesus lived and died under the Law. We are called to live and 16 die (perhaps!)

under Grace—under a program which was revealed from Heaven by Christ to the Apostle Paul for the Church, Christ's Body. Therefore, if we would be obedient followers of Christ today, we must follow Paul as he followed Christ, (see 1 Cor. 11:1; Gal. 4:4-6)

It is the widespread failure of Christians to recognize Paul as God's spokesman and pattern for the present dispensation that has caused so much confusion and division in the Church. The Roman Catholic Church looks back to Peter and claims his "keys of the kingdom" for the Church. The "Church of Christ" (Campbellite) embraces the "Kingdom Gospel" requirement of water baptism for salvation while rejecting the miraculous signs that were to follow the preaching of that gospel. The Pentecostals claim the miracles associated with the Kingdom program but reject its requirement of water baptism for salvation, (see Mt. 16:18-19; Mk. 16:15-18)

To be a follower of Christ today you must be a follower of Paul.

The rest of the Evangelical Christian community embraces a curious blending of unique features of the prophetic program with equally unique features of the secret program given to Paul. This large segment of Christianity is hopelessly divided over ritual baptism—its meaning, its mode, its proper subjects, its formula, etc. Is it not sad that Satan has succeeded in fragmenting such a large segment of the Body of Christ by means of controversy over a Jewish ritual that has no place in the present order? (see 1 Cor. 1:18, 12:13; Eph. 4:5; Col. 2:12; Rom. 6:1-6; Heb. 9:6-10 ["wash-

ings” = “baptisms”])

Yes, I am “Pauline” in doctrine and practice. No, I do not worship Paul nor do I exalt him above a mere mortal. But I “magnify” his office! He is God’s primary spokesman for this present age. I believe he spoke by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit when he declared that believers today are to be established by his gospel. I believe Christ speaks today through Paul’s writings (not exclusively, but particularly). I also believe Paul’s words concerning the profitability of all Scripture—and I understand that all Scripture must be understood in the light of the Pauline revelation. (See 2 Tim. 2:15, 3:15- 17; Rom. 16:25-27)

Our position with regard to Paul’s unique message and commission is Biblically sound. Furthermore, it is vitally important. Although it is true an intellectual grasp of the mystery does not guarantee a life approved by God, it is equally true there is no hope for such approval apart from “rightly dividing the Word of Truth!” The only way the Bible could be made to refute our position would be to eliminate the entire book of Acts after Chapter 8 and all of Paul’s Epistles. That, of course, would leave us poor Gentile “dogs” on the outside, “without hope, and without God in the world” until the time when “all Israel shall be saved.” (See 2 Tim.

2:15; Matt. 15:21-27)

Christ alone must be preached, worshipped and exalted. But He must be preached according to the revelation of the mystery. That means our preaching must be “Pauline.” It is Paul (more than any other Biblical writer) who exalts and glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. No adequate “Christology” can be formulated apart from Paul’s Epistles. The next time I hear someone accuse us of exalting Paul, I won’t dismiss him by saying, “That’s nonsense!” I will invite him to read this article. Then at least he will know why I am a follower, not a worshipper, of Paul!



GETTING “THE WORD” OUT TO THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

Howard Goss, who works in the CLF Mail Department is shown here preparing 120 mission packages that were sent out to individuals in the Philippine Islands prior to our two Christ-life Fellowship conferences there. An offering was taken at the 2012 Pine Cove Weekend in the Word to cover postage of \$27 for each package.



Wennie Unat and Roger Bodary
Leaders of the Philippping Fellowship



Howard Goss

‘TIL THE WHOLE WORLD KNOWS



AFTER HIS KIND

BY RAY OGLES

PART 3 Christ the seed spoken of in Gal. 3:16 is, in Strong's, seed=4690=sperma=something sown (including the male sperm), a remnant, as if kept over for planting, issue, seed. So, it is plain to see that God, as Father, wishes to sow His own seed (Christ) into man so that He will have His desire met: a family!

Let us now look at what we spoke of earlier concerning the "uncursed earth." In Gen. 2:7 God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed the breath of life within him prior to the fall of man. Since Adam, according to the flesh, was made of uncursed earth, then we too, through generations and generations of sown seed, are also of uncursed earth. What makes this such a valuable piece of truth? Since God saw down through the ages that He was going to overshadow Mary and put His seed in her womb, surely God would not sow His seed into cursed earth. The seed of Christ is pure and holy and holds within itself all the character and nature of God (Col. 2:9). Paul himself prayed a prayer illuminating God's desire. In 1 Thess. 5:23, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly: and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." This prayer is evidence that God does not want just a part of us but desired our whole salvation. It is an awesome thought to think God wants all of me as Christ in me!

In Heb. 10:5 we find: "Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, 'Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me.'" God needed a man capable of housing His seed in order to fulfill His desire. Mt. 1:18-25 and Jn. 1:14 are evidences that God was taking steps to fulfill His plan to have a family by birthing His own seed (sperm) into Mary's womb. Prior to Christ, all of mankind was polluted spiritually because of sin in them; therefore God could not and would not place Christ into a sinner still yet being a sinner. God had to have a man (sinless) to come into the world in order to accomplish this. Nine months later a child was born of uncursed earth and His name was Jesus. For thirty years Jesus lived a sinless life observing all the law of God and experiencing what it was like being a human being and living among those whom He would redeem. He was and is Immanuel: God with us.

At this point it is time to introduce another aspect of Christ. Christ is the Word, (Jn. 1:1) and the Word is the sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17) and the Word is sharper than any two-edged sword, Heb. 4:12. Now, the Son of God (Christ), as the Son of man and the second Adam (Lk. 19:10, 1 Cor. 15:45) can set out to accomplish the Father's will in bringing many sons and daughters to glory. From age 30, when Jesus was introduced as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin (root) of the world," Jn. 1:29, and anointed

of God (Acts 10:38) and until He cried "It is finished," (Jn. 19:30), God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself (2 Cor. 5:19).

Since Christ is the "sword of the Spirit" then it only makes sense that Christ is the axe laid unto the root of the trees. Christ not only voluntarily laid down His life for us but as us. He took into His body all of the sin (seed bearing all the sin and nature of everyone) of every age of mankind. He took into Himself the root problem of the universe: 2 Cor. 5:21; 2 Cor. 5:14-15; Rom. 5:11; and Isa. 53:6-9, which all point to the accomplishment of the destruction of the root problem of every man and woman of all time.

As I mentioned earlier, why cut down the tree and fruit when eventually the root (stump) will sprout again and bear the nature from which it came? For example: all of man's programs clean a person up from a worldly, carnal perspective, and a person may even go on for a while with the appearance of accomplishment. But, eventually a circumstance or situation (C&S) will arise and that root (sin) will spring forth and the person will once again become in bondage to the nature within. Been there, done that!

God in His complete perfection is a trinity consisting of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Likewise, man is a trinity consisting of spirit, soul, and body. If a person were to become saved and be born again of the seed (Christ) of God and still retain the

first root (seed=sin) nature, then that person would not be a trinity but a “quadnity!” How absurd is that! Man is not body, soul, spirit and spirit. There is not one shred of evidence in the word of God that points to man having two (spiritual) seeds. A man can be double-minded, but never two-natured (James 1:8). A man can have mental problems that are multiple but there is only one root system that supports and gives nature to a tree or a man. That is wisdom. Jesus Christ himself said, “Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit.” (Mt. 12:33). In 1 Pet. 1:23 we are given some of the most insightful words ever written. “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, (Satan’s seed of sin sown into Adam’s heart in the garden of Eden), but of incorruptible, (Christ received into the believing heart), by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.” (Author’s emphasis.) It just doesn’t make sense to believe that the Father would plant His seed (Christ) inside our heart alongside the seed of Satan and sin and let those two battle it out to see who wins. There are many doctrines and teachings that are in the world that say there are two natures within a Christian. Wisdom, the phrase “sin nature” and “human nature” do not appear in the King James Version nor are found in the manuscripts from which we translate.

Let’s look deeper into God’s mind at creation. On day four God created the natural lights. There would be three sources of light mentioned which are the great light, the sun, and the lesser lights which are the moon and the stars. These are lights which are experienced and seen in

the natural world where all physical life exists. As we learned earlier, the great light sun is a vital part of life existing on this planet. This sun is spoken of in Gen. 1:16. But, in Gen. 1:3 God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light, but this light was not physical light like the sun. Just as there must be a natural light to warm, illuminate, and set off the growing of natural seeds, there must also be a super-natural (spiritual light) to give life and light to spiritual seeds. It was necessary for this light to be created first in the event that Adam chose to eat of the “Tree of Life.” (Two important verses about mankind prior to Christ are: 1) “. . . children in whom is no faith” (Deut. 32:20); 2) “. . . it is because there is no light in them” (Is. 8:20).)

Whether Israel or Gentile, there was no faith, no light, nor any spiritual life in anyone—only spiritual death. This light spoken of in Gen. 1:3 is again spoken of in the gospel of Jn. 1:4, 5, where the writer states that in Him (Christ the Word) was life and this life was the light of men. Verse 5 states that this light shines but the darkness does not comprehend it. This is further proof that light and darkness cannot co-exist, commingle, nor have any fellowship with each other. The very idea that we remain with the first seed (sin-nature) and with the born-again seed (Christ our life) is unfounded, unscriptural, and an outright lie from Satan, the father of lies, (Jn. 8:44).

Isn’t it interesting that Jn. 1:4, 5 talks about this spiritual light and then a couple chapters later we find Jesus talking to Nicodemus about being born again, (Jn. 3:3-8). Here is some more wonderful wisdom. No life could exist on this planet

without the natural light, the sun. And no spiritual life could exist anywhere without the supernatural light, the Son! Christ is that light! (See 2 Cor. 4:6).

Born again (rebirthed)! For years I questioned this most wonderful and interesting miracle wondering just exactly how this takes place. Here is what I know: (1) all have sinned (past tense) and come short of God’s glory (Rom. 3:23). (2) Mankind needed convincing of the seed within so God sent His Holy Ghost to reprove (convince) the world of sin (Jn. 16:8). (3) During this ministry of the Holy Ghost, the Father is drawing all mankind to Christ (Jn. 6:44). (4) All of this ministry is God’s goodness (grace) and His goodness leads men to repentance which is acknowledging they are sinners in need of new seed (Christ-life) (Rom 2:4, Rom 10:17, Eph. 4:7). (5) Each person at some point in his or her natural life will hear His voice and be drawn to Christ and they will hear it in their heart (Heb. 3:7, Heb. 4:7). (6) At this point the person is ready for re-birth. Believing with their heart and confessing with their mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord and the Son of God who gave Himself as a sacrifice for them, trusting in his shed blood and atonement (Rom. 3:24-26; Rom. 5:11; Rom. 10:8-10; Heb. 9:14). (7) At this instant the Holy Ghost overshadows the heart of the person, much like Mary was overshadowed in Lk. 1:35 and this is what happens. This overshadowing is the Holy Ghost preparing the dark heart for an operation (Col. 2:12). (Remember: this is all done by faith in the Spirit.) (8) Christ is our Great Physician (Sword=axe) and He performs a circumcision of
(Continued on page 18)

2013 CLF PHILIPPINES CAMP MEETING

by Wennie A. Unat

The Christ-life family in the Philippines had just recently concluded its conference fellowship last April 12, 2013. The first fellowship meeting was held in Laguna, Manila, Southern part of the Philippines. It was attended with 45 people mostly family members of the Christ -life Laguna. The second fellowship was held in Iligan City, the area Center for Christ-life in the Philippines. The conference was joined by approximately 120 people coming from different parts of Northern Philippines.

The speakers for both conferences were Warren and Robbie Litzman, and Bro. Roger Bodary. Together with the Litzmans was Mr. Howard Goss, and with Bro. Roger, was his son, Nathan. It was a wonderful fellowship from among Christ-life believers together with the new set of Christian men and women


who recently came to understand the message of 'Christ in you.' It was attended by pastors of different church denominations, youth, adults, and kids.

The entire week was all about feeding and eating, and processing the Words of the Father spoken through the three speakers. The sessions were divided into two: morning and evening. Both sessions were started with singing, praising, and worshiping with songs back to the Lord, back to the Father.

Every meeting, you can hear believers sharing about the messages that were delivered that day. It was really a refreshing moment for the old ones, and a revelation for the new ones. And the Father had revealed and had spoken to each and every one based on their needs and what the Father intends to say. There were testimonies shared, and

although not everyone was able to stand on pulpit to share, you can hear them talking and sharing about the greatness of this TRUTH, that Christ lives in every born-again believer.

It was really a whole different kind of experience as everyone was always saying. Being able to hear and listen to Warren Litzman in person is just amazing. It's different compared to reading his writings and listening to him through a cyberspace. It was indeed a blessing to have Warren and Robbie, Roger – and his son, Nathan.

Every exhortation and message of love by the Father toward us was an overwhelming joy. It was such a powerful reminder as to who we are and what we are made to be in Christ. It was foundational truth in our walking and knowing of the Lord as our Life. 



AUDIENCE AT ILIGAN CITY WITH 120 REPORTED ATTENDING



Nathan and the Filipino Youth



After His Kind by Ray Ogles
(Continued from page 15)

the heart cutting away the “body of sins” (seed, root, and all the death that gained root from the first birth) (Col. 2:11). (9) the Holy Ghost washes with the blood of Jesus and the water of the word to make ready for implanting of the One Seed=Christ. This is the washing of regeneration spoken of in Titus 3:5, and this is the implanting (in the soil of the heart) of the incorruptible Seed=Christ, (Eph. 5:26, 1 Pet. 1:23). (10) Once Christ (the one seed) has been received and implanted into the spirit (womb=heart) of the believer, the Holy Ghost seals the spirit of the newly born-again child of God (Eph. 1:13) and; (11) The brand new son or daughter of God is immediately baptized into the body, which is the family of God (1 Cor. 12:13). And now we have a brand new, born-again, new nature, new character, new seed, new root, son or daughter of Abba Father! That is the BORN-AGAIN experience! That is the Father reproducing “AFTER HIS KIND”! God is not in the business of changing ANYONE’S LIFE. Rather, He exchanges and gives new life by re-birthing new life which is Christ! This new life is found in only one seed = Christ (1 Jn. 5:11-12; Col. 1:27; Col. 3:4; 2 Cor. 5:17).

Since the body of Christ is full of bona-fide born again Christians who are “tees of life” bearing fruit and see “after His kind” (Gal. 5:22-23) then there had to be a first Christian. I had often wondered who the first Christian was. I had thought it was the soldier who pierced Jesus’ side because he was covered in His blood mixed with water. But that was an outward ex-

perience and being born again is an inner experience. The answer was in the Word.

Jesus of Nazareth was born of Mary, of the seed of David, a man (Rom. 1:3) according to the flesh. Jesus had a special body prepared because He came from the womb of a growing virgin of uncursed earth, who was never touched by any man, therefore, unpolluted. Jesus who knew no sin (the Father’s seed of Christ implanted into Mary’s womb supernaturally), became sin for us (all sin=seed, root, tree, and fruit) was poured into His body in the garden of Gethsemane (Lk. 22:42-44, 2 Cor. 5:21). And so Jesus of Nazareth was taken captive from the garden and underwent the judgment and punishment for “our” sin and laid down His own life and we died in Him on the cross at Golgotha. Three days later He arose again from the dead and He became the first born from the dead. We have always known Christ as God’s only begotten Son, but not as the first-born from the dead until the New Testament. God made all glory and bragging rights to fall to His only-begotten Son. “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; that in all things he might have the pre-eminence” (Col. 1:18).

Pre-eminence in Greek means: “first in rank and position.” Also, “. . . the first-born of every creature.” (Col. 1:15); “. . . that he might be the first-born among many brethren” (Rom. 8:29); “To the general assembly and church of the first born . . .” (Heb. 12:23). And the winner is: Jesus Christ is the first Christian. He is Alpha and Omega and it must be fixed in our minds that Christ is “The Tree of Life” within us and

now because of His obedience in the second “garden of testing,” the Father is now able to birth His own family “after His kind.”

When Christ was raised from the dead and ascended to the Father, He offered Himself to Him as the “Lamb” slain from the foundation of the world (Rev. 3:18), and this was the first fruit of His finished works and of the new covenant (testament). This fulfilled the will of God from Gen. 1:26. Christ being the first fruit, we then are the first fruits of His harvest in salvation (Rom. 8:23; Rom. 16:5; 1 Cor. 15:20, 23; 1 Cor. 16:15, Jm. 1:18); and thus, we become co-laborers with God in bringing many more sons and daughters into His family (1 Cor. 3:9).

Being born again with the old man dead, crucified with Christ and the old root system removed forever, (Rom. 6:6, Gal 2:20), we now have Christ in us (Col. 1:27) and this new seed now grows, takes root, and is our new life. I remind you that in the seed lies all the nature and character that will grow into the root, tree, and fruit. Since Christ is now the only seed in us, He is also the root. “For if the first fruit (Christ) be holy, the lump is also holy, and if the root be holy, so are the branches” (Rom. 11:16). Also, Col. 3:4, “. . . Christ who is our life . . .” We are also partakers of His divine nature, (2 Pet. 1:4). What has taken place when being born again is an awesome truth that most Christians don’t know and many I’ve spoken with refuse to believe. In Rom. 11:18 we find that we do not bear the root, but the root bears us, meaning that our new life is solely supplied by the root (Christ) who lives in us and is our life.





THE PERFECT PRODUCT OF PATIENCE

by Alice Scott-Ferguson

We are all familiar with the saying; good things come to them that wait. Our prevalent lack of patience completely belies any belief in such an aphorism. Perhaps we are like Simon, in Cassandra Clare's book *City of Glass*, who humorously explained it thus: I always thought that was, 'Good things come to those who do the wave,' no wonder I've been so confused all my life. Lack of resolve to endure indicates we too may have misunderstood something in that maxim.

Patience is probably prayed for more than any other life commodity. "Lord grant me patience, and I want it now," that cry showing that we truly do not understand what it is, as we grapple with curbing our irritation, resolving to do better, repeatedly failing, and reaping the sometimes devastating consequences of impatience. Even though we are aware of the Fruit of the Spirit, of which patience is a part, it seems so remote an attribute even in the ordinary events of everyday life; stuck in traffic, untangling wire coat hangers or waiting for the microwave to complete its defrost cycle; in these situations we feed on restless agitation, mounting exasperation and ugly finger tapping. In the absence of the awareness of the built-in prerequisite of patience embodied in Christ, we all live so deprived of the fruit that patience produces.

We live in a world that is not conducive to waiting. 'Hurry' is the operative word though there are still twenty-four hours in every day as there have been since time began! I still get flustered when someone demands that I hurry, for the flash back is to childhood when a wonderful, but impetuous dad, couldn't wait! (I have inherited that strand of DNA as well as learning observed behavior rather well!) In case we consider impatience a new arrival on the scene of time, history begs to differ. I recall the story of Abram and Sara and the promise of a son whose parentage they preempted due to a mixture of impatience and unbelief. Mind you, twenty-five years is a considerable wait, but the results of selecting a concubine to fulfill God's plan, birthed a course of events that continues to this day in separate nations claiming father Abraham; the conflict, tension and strife go on.

**"Lord grant me patience,
and I want it now"**

The marriage of impatience and unbelief is a powerful and productive union. In the past two years they have met in the crucible of sickness and suffering in my own life. To be faced with the illness of a loved one now no longer as you once knew them—whose every aspect of daily living requires sup-

port and supervision—impatience is ever on the doorstep and, regrettably, I often open the door! I have concluded two cardinal truths comprise the problem of succumbing to impatience. In common with my biblical parents in the faith, I am, first of all, full of fear and doubt; I feel life is out of control and do not believe that God meant what he said that He is my source and will never leave, forsake and will always make a way. Which translated means I think I am alone, that no one is looking out for me, and I must do it my way. The second is a simple deficit of compassion—love is patient. Impatience is utterly self-serving; it really is all about me... my rights, my inconvenience, the interruption of my life...with little or no consideration of, or identification with, another's impairment or impediments.

Hitting the pause button in moments of fear, doubt and selfishness, accurately assessing the tiredness and loneliness factors (which highly exacerbate impatience), then surrendering to the Love that never fails, permits patience to trump every time. The result is fruit that is succulent to taste, a feast of tenderness, sweetness and fragrance that spreads all around. Such wisdom our Triune God displayed when he made Christ our all-sufficiency, embodying everything we would

(Continued on page 22)

SPIRITUAL COMBAT VETERANS

BY CLIFF GARDNER

A short time ago I had the opportunity to converse with a Vietnam war veteran who had been a U.S. Army Medical Corpsman. He related to me how deeply the experience had touched him. It appeared to me that he was “marked” for the rest of his life. He had seen, heard, and felt things that very few human beings ever do. He had lived at the doorway to eternity. All the rest of his life since has seemed somewhat disconnected as compared to that vivid era.

Thinking through this dear person’s recollections brought me to consider some parallels in the spiritual realm. To come to the understanding of life in Christ by a revelation by the Holy Spirit is like becoming a combat veteran. Combat veterans have come under aimed enemy fire. They have faced death with all of its ramifications in the physical realm. They have seen comrades in arms fall dead by their side. Many have been severely wounded in battle. Later, those who have survived find it hard to relate to those who have not “been there.” They don’t necessarily see themselves as something special, or that they deserve honors or awards. They simply have been to a place in heart, mind, soul and body that very few have gone. Their lives have been forever touched by what they have seen, heard, thought, and felt. It has marked and made them different. They may take the rest of their lives to evaluate the meaning of it all especially when they try to relate to those who weren’t there.

Those whose “processing” by the Heavenly Father has taken them to the “spiritual” war zone where “life” and “religion” are in conflict are like these combat veterans. Many have been severely wounded and are crippled in their journey from “religion” to “life.” They may have seen religion kill loved ones or friends — yes, some physically. Some are so scarred in mind and soul that they are like the shell shocked veteran who jumps at every sound; they see death as the only way out! Those who survive the battle and finally see life in Christ find they can have no fellowship with “religious Christianity.” They have Christ’s love operating in them and begin to love their enemies — and find that their enemies are mainly those who are still bound by the religious system. Most attempts at bringing light and life to those left back in religion are found to be futile. These veterans may become almost paranoid in their loneliness and may be quite isolated from the mainstream of Christianity. In their “aloneness” they will finally learn that the only true basis of fellowship is with the Father and the Son. They begin to be aware that other veterans of the spiritual battle are out there and that the Father has taught them the same basic lesson. They begin to see Christ in each other. They become somewhat of an enigma to the religious system that sees them as promoters of some sort of heresy. Being rejected isn’t easy, but often it is necessary to stay on the journey to the Father’s house. These

dear veterans of the spiritual battle stop trying to be “spiritual.” They give up on “trying to be like Jesus.” They have faced their own death and are beginning to know and live resurrection life by the Christ (the resurrected one) in them. They no longer are stimulated and moved by the world’s problems and needs unless it is by Christ in them. They care, but are learning to operate by Christ in them as wisdom rather than by their fleshly perceptions. They will see that God’s work needs no human promotion (which is only a distraction from the truth of God’s power and sovereignty). They will see the physical world as a “schoolhouse” where lessons are taught and learned along the journey. They see death as a release and graduation to where life is lived in its full reality — the Father’s house!

There are some who come close to the battle but have not experienced actual combat. They are curious to hear the veterans’ story and act as war correspondents that report battle conditions, but actually have never been fired upon. Still others of those who are very active in religion are like those who are involved in guerilla warfare who cannot discern who the real enemy is, and in the darkness end up fighting on the wrong side, possibly being killed by those they trusted.

The U.S. Army issues a badge to those who have completed a tour of duty in combat. It is called the “Combat Infantryman Badge.” It identifies those who wear it as

(Continued on page 22)



THE SACRIFICE BY ED GARDNER

In the Old Testament, God placed great emphasis on how a person had to be forgiven for his or her sins, thus satisfying His Holiness. Depending on the type and the severity of the sin, a turtledove, a pinch of flour and oil, a ram, a bullock, etc. was offered periodically for various sins committed by individuals or the community as a whole. The sacrifice itself was the central focus, and that sacrifice was usually an animal.

The primary function of the sacrifice was to acknowledge the seriousness of the offense and the disruption it would inevitably introduce into the community. The person making this “sin offering” was responsible for providing the Temple Priests with a suitable offering, based on the requirements of the Law; that is, the sacrifice had to be without spot, not crippled, etc.

The offering of the sacrifice acknowledges that were it not for the grace of God, it is the worshipper

who would die! When a person offered the object, the emphasis was always on the object that was offered. The priest inspected the offering to be sure it was acceptable. The person offering the object was only considered “if the offered sacrifice was not acceptable and rejected!”

The motivating factor for this sacrifice was FEAR of God!; fear that the sacrifice would not be accepted and his or her sin would not be forgiven. If the sacrifice was rejected, then the person who offered it was required by God’s Law to offer his or her life in place of the sacrifice.

In the New Testament, Jesus is the Lamb of God offered for our sins once and for all. Jesus became the acceptable Sacrifice to God, who then becomes our Heavenly Father through Christ. When a person offers “sacrifice” to God the Father or approaches Him in prayer and supplication, the Father looks

at the person offering the sacrifice, looking for Christ. When our Father sees Christ in you, then you are acceptable in the Beloved. But, if our Father does not see Christ in you, then you are rejected.

He looks in us searching to find Christ. He does NOT look at the righteous works we may have done, or at any outer work. We are only acceptable to the Father if Christ is in us.

For, Christ has been made unto us: wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. (1 Cor. 1:30). “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Cor. 5:17). “To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:” (Col. 1:27). “... if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his” (Rom. 8:9).



The birthing of Christ in you makes you free from all things that legalism is. You are free to be the new creature that is Christ in you.

**WATCH WARREN’S DAILY
BROADCAST ON clfdallas.com**

**READ *LIFE IN THE SON*
MAGAZINE ONLINE
AT www.clfdallas.com**

(Continuation of After His Kind by Ray Ogles from page 18)

John says in Rev. 5:5, 22:16 that he is the “root and offspring of David.” Isaiah says in 11:1, 10 that he is the “root of Jesse.” If we indeed are a trinity and our spirit has been born again of the seed of Christ, then being born-again, we are complete again (Col. 2:10) in Him! All that is left to do in the Christian life is BE! Be who we are and let the Holy Ghost renew our minds to this awesome truth, (Rom. 12:2). The Holy Ghost is our teacher and guide and He is who will make this truth a reality.

And now we understand Mt. 3:10 and Lk. 3:9. The axe has indeed cut

to the core, disintegrated and utterly destroyed the first seed (sin) of every man, woman, and child that will ever exist.

I will close with this: the two Adams. The first Adam was made a living soul and he was the federal head of all mankind, according to the flesh, and his choice of disobedience made all of mankind the children of Satan. The second Adam, Christ, is a quickening spirit and He made a choice of obedience (in the garden of Gethsemane). His choice opened the “door” for all mankind to be born again and become the children of God (Abba Father), thus, making Christ the federal head of His body, the church,

according to the Spirit, giving His Father a family that can now return agape love, fellowship and fruit that will please Him forever.

I leave you with this one question: Which tree are you?

(All translation and emphasis is the author’s and as always, revelation is at all times subject to growth and expansion in the doctrine of Christ. Praise the Lord!)

“He that is joined unto the Lord is one Spirit” (1 Cor. 6:17).

P.S. Further word studies of: root, fruit, tree, kind, axe, and divide, will shed yet more light on this wonderful subject of truth.

Enjoy!



(Continuation of The Perfect Product of Patience by Alice Scott-Ferguson from page 19)

ever need for every eventuality in life—wisdom that is also ours in unlimited supply! In fact the writer Jarod Kintz summed it up succinctly saying, patience and wisdom walk hand in hand like two one-armed lovers.

And there is no greater lover than

the God whose patience and wisdom always wait for the perfect time; whether in showing his saving solution in Jesus or in meeting us on the journey we call time; making all things beautiful in His time, both cosmically and individually. So I too, empowered with that self-same love, can be gently patient with my own impatience, as well as with others in their imperfections

for, as James exhorts in his epistle, let patience have her perfect way that you may be perfect, entire and wanting nothing. I believe that to be true, that good and great things do come to those who wait, so I will wait patiently for its fruition in my life in the here and now . . . or in the there and then!



(Continuation of Spirit Combat Veterans by Cliff Gardner from page 20)

“having been there.” Our Father knows those who have “been there” in this spiritual battle between religion and life. They don’t wear a visible badge, but they are marked by love, hope, and grace. Some battle scars take a long time to heal, and call for caution and trust in and rest on Christ’s humil-

ity in us as our humility. The most profound mark is that these spiritual combat veterans seem always to be pressing on to an ever deepening relationship with the Father and the Son. They have no confidence in their flesh or in the flesh of others. They have begun to rely on the Holy Spirit as the source to unlock the mystery of Christ in them as their only hope of glorifying the

Father. While still living in the third dimensional world, they begin to realize that they are partakers of a new spiritual dimension that transcends time right into eternity.

Be encouraged, dear brothers and sisters, as you press on! The fire and the wounds from the spiritual battle are nothing compared to the surpassing glory of knowing Him who is our life intimately. ~ ~

YOUR DONATIONS TO *LIFE IN THE SON* PUBLICATIONS

ARE ALWAYS NEEDED AND APPRECIATED.

TO DONATE GO TO THIS LINK: <http://www.king-cart.com/cgi-bin/cart.cgi?store=clf>



Creation of Man by Don Byrd

“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. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth” (Genesis 1:27-28).

Adam was the first human God created after His likeness and image. It is my understanding that God created Adam with the intention of placing a “Christ in you” Spirit-nature in him. Why do I understand this in this manner? I do so based on the eternal outcome where we find all of those who have a “Christ in you” Spirit spending eternity in the Father’s house (John 14). Confirmation: *“...Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his”* (Romans 8:9). However, the placing of this spirit-nature had to be a freewill choice made by Adam. It was arranged in this manner so God would get what He wanted from the very onset. God wanted *“...I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son...”* (Hebrews 1:5). From the onset, the Father wanted to love and to receive love in



the same manner. This had to be a freewill choice by both the Father and those who He gave His love. By this I mean the Father gives His love because it is what He wants for Himself. He does not love because He knows we need His love. That would not be pure love. He loves us because it is what He wants for Himself and not because He knows we need His love.

The one who He loves must return that love in the same manner received from the Father. If we love the Father because we know He wants us to love Him it would not be pure love. We must love our Father because it is what we want and not because we know it is what our Father desires. When we love our Father because it is what we want then it is our Father’s pure love reciprocated to Him. It is completely up to the Father’s offspring to reciprocate the love our Father manifests toward them. His offspring must also freely receive our Father’s love, which is a freewill choice. No force or coercion is involved in this process. This love process functions only between the Father and His birthed offspring, who allow it to spontaneously function. May we

daily learn how to receive and return our Father’s love.

What is God’s likeness and image? This pertains only to the *“...I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son...”* (Hebrews 1:5). The likeness and image of God is the Father part of God. It pertains to the part of God that can birth offspring. There is no such thing as a likeness and image of the Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnipresent and Supreme God. Why is this true? This is because the Supreme God is self-existent. Therefore, there can be no likeness and image of such a one as the Supreme, self-existent God. Adam’s creation was never completed in the image and likeness of the Father. Adam’s creation was not complete until the last Adam died. *“And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit”* (1 Corinthians 15:45). Christ Jesus our Lord was the last Adam. However, He was also the second man. *“The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven”* (1 Corinthians 15:47).

Adam’s creation remains incomplete until an individual believes in accordance with Romans 10:9-13. When an individual believes in the crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus our Lord that individual receives the “Christ in you” spirit-nature and this is his completion, which is what God intended from the onset.

From this understanding, I glean that Adam was originally created body, soul, and empty house or empty container. I get the “empty house” statement from (Matthew 12:43-44). *“When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished.”* (Matthew 12:43-44). “Empty, swept, and garnished” describes the place God created in Adam that would later facilitate the “Christ in you” Spirit-nature when an individual is born-again. When Adam violated the commandment God gave him, the empty house became occupied with the death-sin-nature of the devil, which we call the sin-nature. When Jesus died on the cross the death-sin-nature was destroyed (Romans 6:6). *“Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.”* (Romans 6:7). The death-sin-nature was destroyed leaving the container “empty, swept, and garnished.” The empty house is never left empty again because it is now occupied by the “Christ in you” Spirit-nature.

God could not place the “Christ in you” Spirit-nature in Adam because this would not be a freewill choice made by Adam. The “Christ in you” Spirit-nature placed in an individual must be the freewill choice of the individual. This is why God created the empty house container to contain the “Christ in you” Spirit-nature, if Adam had made the proper choice.

This is why I think Adam was created body, soul and empty house!

The empty house was usurped by the serpent or devil.

RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH

“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 5:23). *“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart”* (Hebrews 4:12). “Joints and marrow” pertain to the physical body. *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:”* (2 Timothy 3:16). This is most definitely true. However, all Scripture is not given for receiving the revelation of “Christ in you” because it was a secret and mystery until revealed to the Apostle Paul. Therefore, we need to adhere to Paul’s gospel because of the “Christ in you” Spirit-nature in us. Only Paul’s Epistles require the revelation process for born-again believers. Revelation is a secret locator and a mystery solved process administered only by the Holy Spirit to born-again believers. Revelation is necessary only in Paul’s Epistles and John’s Gospel because John had access to Paul’s Epistles.

Humans are comprised of spirit, soul, and body, each being a complete and separate component from the other. Each functions in a unique method designed by God to provide specific functions for the whole man. The body provides a wide variety of physical manifestations. The soul-mind contains

knowledge and the thinking process and shares it with the body. The spirit part of man is the only stable and unchangeable part of man. It matters not whether it is the spirit of the devil or the “Christ in you” Spirit—both are unchangeable. Confirmation: *“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever”* (Hebrews 13:8). Body and the soul-mind is the only created part of man. The spirit is the part that is birthed and cannot be created. Confirmation: *“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit”* (John 3:6). Spirit can only birth spirit and nothing else. Spirit is reproduced only through the birthing process.

“And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;” (Ephesians 4:23). This verse might cause erroneous thinking pertaining to the soul-mind and the spirit-nature. The body does contain both the soul-mind and the spirit-nature. The soul-mind or spirit-nature do not contain the body. Both have influence on the body but do not contain the physical part known as the body. It is rather simple to keep these two separated from the physical body, which houses both. The soul mind and spirit-nature are intangible to the physical body’s five senses of see, hear, touch, taste and smell characteristics.

The soul-mind is very unique due to the mind’s intake of outside knowledge through the five body senses. The mind is very unstable to say the least. The soul-mind can be changed in a moment to believe something that it has never encountered previously. The spirit part of man is the only stable part of man. Even the death-sin-nature is stable and is unchangeable. Birthed spirit does not change because of

Adam's Original Creation

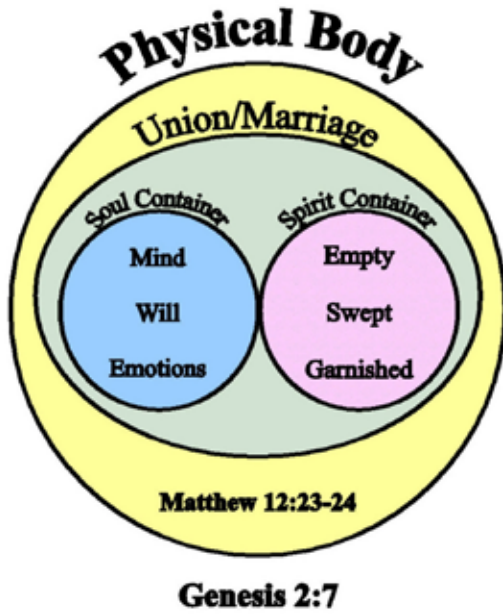


Figure 1

Adam's Union With the Sin Nature

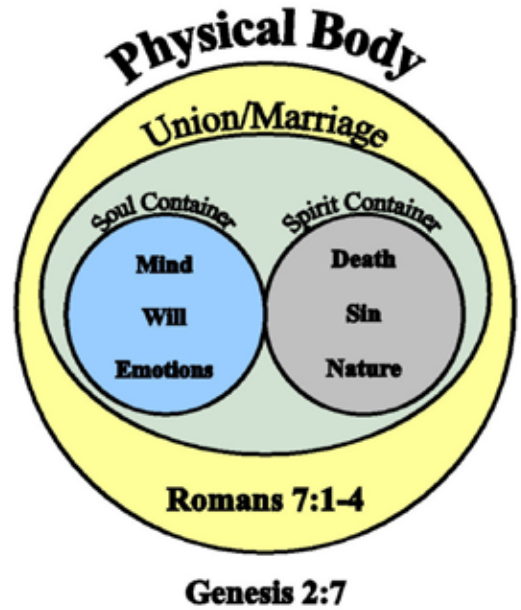


Figure 2

Work Of Grace At The Cross

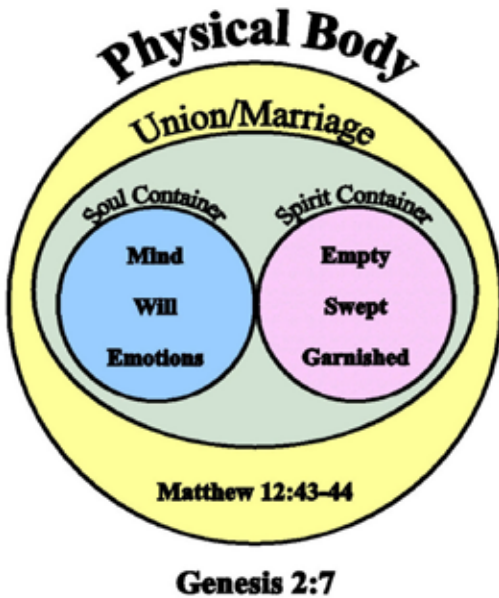


Figure 3

Christ's Union With Believers

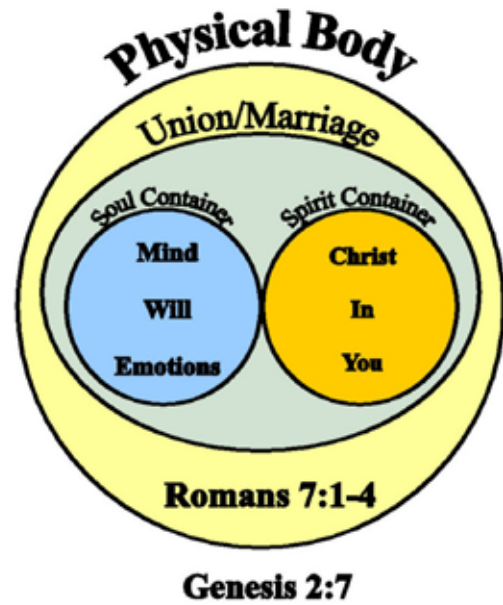


Figure 4

the birthing process. It is what it is because of the birthing process. The death-sin-nature cannot be changed but it can be destroyed (Romans 6:6). If the soul-mind also contained the death-sin-nature it would not have necessitated the death of our Lord Jesus Christ. The death-sin-nature never entered in the spirit realm and the spirit never entered into the soul-mind area. If the mind contained the death-sin-nature all that needed to be done was to have a mind change to get rid of the death-sin-nature. If the decision by Adam's soul-mind caused the outside spirit of the devil to enter into his mind then all Adam needed to do was reverse his decision to get rid of the spirit of the devil. Under these circumstances, the death of Christ Jesus our Lord would not be necessary. Adam's decision caused the death-sin-nature to enter into the empty house that was originally created to facilitate the "Christ in you" Spirit nature.

If a soul-mind decision by Adam caused the death-sin-nature to enter into the soul-mind area, then Adam needed to reverse the decision and get rid of it! The decision did cause the death-sin-nature to enter into Adam, but it entered into the empty house not the soul-mind. A soul-mind change cannot get rid of the death-sin-nature because it is in the previously empty house container, which is designed, by God, to contain only spirit. God designed the physical body to contain both soul-mind and spirit-nature. He designed the soul-mind to contain only knowledge, understanding, good, evil, etc. that are intangibles and subject to changes. The spirit area contains only spirit, and spirit cannot be changed. The body is subject to changes, growth,

age, loss of body parts, for example. The mind is also subject to changes such as increase or decrease of knowledge, memory, etc. The spirit-nature is eternally stable and is not subject to change. Christ came into the world to destroy the death-sin-nature in Adam and his posterity. The death-sin-nature is replaced by the "Christ in you" Spirit-nature which was our Father's intention from the onset. God allowed all of this to happen because all of it had to be the freewill choice of Adam. God's nature is a Father nature. He birthed a Son in His own Fatherly image (Hebrews 1:3). Our Father can only birth offspring in His likeness and image. All born-again believers are in our Father's image and likeness. God cannot change His nature. If He could then He would no longer be God the Father.

**RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE
WORD OF TRUTH - DEATH**
*Study to shew thyself approved
unto God, a workman that needeth
not to be ashamed, rightly divid-
ing the word of truth*" (2 Timothy
2:15).

*"But have renounced the hidden
things of dishonesty, not walking in
craftiness, nor handling the word
of God deceitfully; but by mani-
festation of the truth commending
ourselves to every man's conscience
in the sight of God"*
(2 Corinthians 4:2)

I pray to the Father to help me not to "handle the word of God deceitfully" but to share it in the fullness of light as I receive it from the Holy Spirit.

This document is my honest and heart-felt opinion of rightly dividing the "word of truth" contained within the 1611 Authorized King James Version Bible. It is my intention in this document to give

my honest unadulterated opinion of this subject. It is impossible for me to give account of the many influential events, which formed my opinions, because it started when I was born-again at 13 years of age. I cannot recall some of these events but the effects might still reside within my mind.

ORIGINAL SETTING

1. Origin of the devil: Every Bible scholar I have ever read agrees these verses pertain to Lucifer, the archangel created by God, before and after Lucifer's fall.

a. Lucifer's creation was not in a corrupt condition—his creation was perfect. "Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created.."

b. He was originally created as an archangel named Lucifer. His own freewill choice to rebel against God was his downfall. After his original fall he became known as Satan or the devil, which is an adversary of God

c. Confirmation of Lucifer's fall: "*Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created*" (Ezekiel 28:13). "*Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire*" (Ezekiel 28:14). "*Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee*" (Ezekiel 28:15). "*By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of*

thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire” (Ezekiel 28:16).

These verses also contain the origin of sin “...thou hast sinned” and is the point in eternity past when sin came into existence. Sin is a freewill choice made by an individual, rebelling against God. At least four different classes of angels were originally created.

2. LEVELS OF ANGELIC

CREATURES:

Archangels: *“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:”* (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

Only three archangels created:

Micheal, Lucifer, and Gabriel

Cherubims: *“So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life”* (Genesis 3:24).

Seraphims: *“Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly”* (Isaiah 6:2).

Common Angels: *“Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire”* (Psalm 104:4).

Before sin came into existence, angels had the capability of freewill choices. This means God did not attempt to influence their choices. This continues to be true with angelic creatures that have not rebelled against God.

CREATION OF MAN

3. *“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 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them” (Genesis 1:26-27).

a. Man was created in the image of God. What is the image of God? Hebrews describes this image in this fashion: *“Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person...”* (Hebrews 1:3).

b. God the Father reproduces after His own kind. He does not reproduce after His omnipotence, omniscience and omnipresent. These are not part of the reproducing process “after His kind.” Only fathers can reproduce after their own kind because of the seed within them because seed reproduces after his own kind.

EMPTY HOUSE

When Adam was originally created, he was created in this fashion: Body, Soul and Empty House Container. Why would he not be created body, soul, and spirit? Adam did not have a spirit-nature until after he violated God’s commandment. The empty house is confirmed in John 8:43-45. *“When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none”* (Matthew 12:43). *“Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished”* (Matthew 12:44). *“Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked gen-*

eration” (Matthew 12:45). I realize this pertains to demons who are unclean spirits because of their affiliation with the devil. Nonetheless, an unclean spirit occupied the house, created by God, in a man. Unclean spirits are the product of Lucifer and his sin, which brought the death-sin-nature into existence. The demons are angels who also received the death-sin-nature because of their affiliation with Lucifer during his rebellion against God. They were cast out when Lucifer was cast out. Confirmation: *“And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born”* (Revelation 12:4). Bible scholars state the “third part of the stars of heaven” refers to the angels who followed Lucifer and were cast out of heaven when he was cast out.

The thing we must realize in these verses is the empty house is the container God created in Adam during his original creation. The empty house God created in Adam was “empty, swept, and garnished” containing nothing whatsoever. God intended to allow Adam to freely choose what he wanted to fill the empty house. It became a matter of believing God or not believing God. Adam did not believe God but believed the serpent and Adam died as a result. The serpent told Adam he would not die if he ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam believed the lie of the devil and the outcome was Adam died. The devil and the fallen angels are spirit creatures and can reside in the spirit area God created to house that which is spirit.

The only spirit God has ever

placed in a human is the “Christ in you” Spirit-nature through the birthing process. God did not undo what the devil had done. He simply destroyed it by allowing humans to freely choose to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ His Son. The eternal work of the cross of Jesus Christ is the destruction of the old man who previously occupied the empty house (Romans 6:3). Believing is the key to which spirit-nature resides in the previously empty house.

God’s intention was to fill the empty house container with the “Christ in you” Spirit-nature but intervention by the serpent prevented this from happening. After the original creation, Adam only had a created spirit because the image of God can only consist of a birthed spirit. Spirit can only reproduce after its kind. The process of reproduction is defined in the first chapter of Genesis by the phrase “after his kind” which is the birthing process. Spirit can only produce spirit if it is “after his kind” and flesh can only produce flesh if it is “after his kind.” Confirmation: *“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit”* (John 3:6). This describes the birthing process of reproducing “after his kind” introduced in Genesis and defined by John.

Lucifer, the Adversary of God, the devil, and the serpent only had a created spirit. Angels are God’s created spirits. They are not His birthed offspring. Only those who are born again of the incorruptible Seed are qualified as our Father’s offspring. Adam never had a birthed spirit from God. However, he did receive a spirit in the likeness of Lucifer, the fallen angel.

DEATH

When Adam ate of the tree of the

knowledge of good and evil he violated God’s commandment stating: *“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die”* (Genesis 2:17). Adam did eat of the fruit and he did die. The serpent told Eve she would not surely die if she ate of the fruit of the forbidden tree. *“And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:”* (Genesis 3:4).

The serpent took what God had spoken and told Eve it was not true. Adam did not die a physical, literal death he died a death in the spiritual realm. Wherever the death-sin-nature resides it causes everything in its realm to also become dead. If the death-sin-nature entered into the soul-mind realm Adam’s mind would also become dead due to the presence of the death-sin-nature.

What is death? Death is merely a separation. It is best defined in the book of James. *“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also”* (James 2:26). The body that has no spirit is dead and defined as physical death. From this definition, I glean the fact that separation from God who is Spirit is spiritual death. *“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;”* (Ephesians 2:1). Our trespasses and sins are the result of separation from God and separation is death. To God we were dead and living death-life in trespasses and sins. These things are the result of the corruptible (death-nature) seed manifesting itself, prior to being born-again of the incorruptible Seed, Christ Jesus our Lord. *“Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy*

seed, which is Christ” (Galatians 3:16).

One of the things I understand about Adam’s failure in the Garden of Eden is death was not resident within the tree of the knowledge of good and evil! How can I possibly say this? Death was in the commandment God gave to Adam! Paul calls the law and commandments the ministration of death. *“But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not steadfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away:”* (2 Corinthians 3:7). If Adam had eaten of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil prior to the commandment, he would not have died! This confirms the fact that death was not in the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, it was in the commandment. It is important to understand this. Why is this true? Just simply look at what Adam encountered while in the garden. At this point Adam was still innocent which means he did not know what right, wrong, good, or bad is.

Neither did he know what death is. Neither he nor Eve had ever seen anything that had died therefore they did not know what death was. As far as they knew, it was something good and pleasant to have and enjoy with gladness. Innocence is the condition of “not knowing.” They walked and talked with God and they walked and talked with the devil. They did not know good and evil because they were still innocent. They did not know God was the one who created them and the devil was God’s adversary. They knew nothing about either of these two. As far as they knew, both were

the same.

MY FIRST CONCEPT OF DEATH IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN

My first thought is death was contained in the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. When Adam ate of the tree, he died and was separated from God.

MY SECOND CONCEPT OF DEATH IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN

I later changed my mind while reading and researching in Romans Chapter 7. I decided that death was not in the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Death was contained within the commandment of God. Confirmation: *“For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died”* (Romans 7:9). Paul was born under the law and its commandments. He lived the early years of his life on earth while under the law. Prior to being born-again Paul was never without the law. If not, then how could he say: *“For I was alive without the law once”* if this is true? Paul is retrospectively looking back to the time when he saw himself in Adam prior to Adam’s fall. Then *“...the commandment came, sin revived, and I died”* separating him from God, while he is still in Adam. Confirmation: *“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive”* (1 Corinthians 15:22). *“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”* (Romans 5:12). Sin is the outward manifestation of the death-sin-nature resident within degenerate man. Lucifer became the father of death-sin-nature and he is spirit. Adam’s mind did not die but his empty spirit container became filled with the death-sin-nature he received from the devil.

“Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.” (John 8:41). *“Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.”* (John 8:42). *Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.”* (John 8:43). *“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”* (John 8:44). Deeds or works are the result of the inherent spirit manifesting itself through the soul-mind of an individual. The spirit-nature uses the soul-mind and the soul-mind uses the physical body to exhibit outward physical manifestations.

Romans 5:12 does not state “sin passed upon all men” it states that *“death passed upon all men.”* Why state this in this fashion? After Adam violated the commandment, he became the father of death to humanity. Adam received the death nature from the devil. His posterity contained the death nature, inherited from Adam, which we call the sin-nature. Death is the nature found in everyone who has not been born again of the incorruptible Seed. Those who are born again have a life nature, which is a “Christ in you” nature. Adam is a dead man walking, containing the death-life and separated from God. Death was not in the tree of the knowledge and death was not in the commandment. Death was the spirit-nature Adam received from the devil that I call the death-sin-nature of the

fallen angel Lucifer. Adam did not die in his mind, he died when he received the death-sin-nature from the devil. This separated Adam from God and caused all his posterity to die to God. The devil knew God’s law of seeds producing after its own kind. He knew if he could corrupt Adam, it would also corrupt all of Adam’s decedents. This is seen in Romans 5 where one man’s corruption caused the corruption of his descendants. This is confirmed by the words “one” and “all.” *“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”* (Romans 5:12).

God gave Adam only one commandment and Adam could not keep from violating that one single commandment. Can you possibly comprehend the inability of humans attempting to not violate the Ten Commandments? Death is the result of violating God’s commandments and laws. On the other hand, life is not found by keeping God’s commandments, life is in the Son (1 John 5:12). He that hath not the Son hath not life. Life is not in the ability to keep from violating God’s commandments. Life is in the Son and nowhere else.

Born-again believers are not under any of God’s laws and commandments. How then do they sin and what is sin to them? Sin to believers originate in their minds and is consummated when they violate our Father’s nature. Who in their right mind would want to violate the nature of our Father? Sin, to believers, occurs when they violate our Father’s nature. Believers have the “Christ-in-you nature” resident within them and when sin occurs, in believers, they have totally ignored the Christ in them. Believ-

ers' sins are a slap in the face of the "Christ in you" and a slap in the face of God our Father. Sin is a violation of the "Christ-in-you nature" in born again believers.

After the fall of Adam in the Garden of Eden, he consisted of body, soul and death-spirit. Again, Adam did not have a spirit of his own when created. However, after the fall, humanity does now have a spirit of their own, inherited from Adam who received it from the devil. It is not a life spirit it is a death spirit. Degenerate humanity consists of body, soul-mind, and death-spirit. Born again believers consist of body, soul-mind, and "Christ in you Spirit." These are separate components and must be kept in this fashion in order to rightly divide the word of truth. Body contains a soul-mind and a spirit-nature. However, the body has tangibility while soul-mind and spirit-nature are intangible. The soul-mind does not contain a physical body or spirit-nature. It does manifest itself physically with the physical body. The same is true with the spirit-nature contained within the body. Its only method of physical manifestation is through the physical body.

The Scripture is very plain to state these must remain separate from each other or else the Scriptures become a quagmire of frustration and confusion. *"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ"* (1 Thessalonians 5:23). *"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts*

and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12). I like the way this is stated in Hebrews because of the last line. Soul and spirit are easily seen in Hebrews 4:12. The body is described as "joints and marrow" because these certainly do not pertain to soul and spirit. The body cannot become a part of the soul-mind or the spirit-nature because both of these are intangible to the body. The soul-mind contains faculties such as a mind, will, emotions, memory, etc. These are all unstable characteristics and are subject to change at any time. On the other hand, spirit is the only part of depraved humanity containing stability even though it is a death-nature spirit. This simply means there is no changeable quality in the death-nature spirit. The death-nature-spirit controls the soul-mind and the soul-mind controls the physical body. Sin manifests itself using this method.

Depraved humanity has learned to control the death-sin-nature by using good morals established by society through many generations. This is a soul-mind function because the soul-mind is a controller. This method of operation has deceived many believers. They believe God wants them to be good moral upright citizens, thereby pleasing God. Their thoughts are "if I live right and do good deeds God will accept me."

The mind can temporarily control the spirit-nature characteristics, for short durations. However, when the mind relaxes its vigilance and awareness, the individual reverts to spirit-nature position. This is the natural state of depraved humanity. At no point does the soul-mind contain spirit-nature characteristics because these are permanently fixed in the spirit-nature and cannot be

changed or transferred because all things contained within the mind are subject to change without notice. What happens is the soul-mind eventually releases its control over the spirit-nature characteristics. The spirit-nature then manifests itself through the soul-mind and the soul-mind brings bodily manifestations of the spirit-nature resident within. This brings a spontaneous method of living life on earth.

When Adam birthed offspring, they were in his image and likeness. *"And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth:"* (Genesis 5:3). Adam's posterity was born in his own fallen, separated from God, image. God never became Adam's Father. However, the devil did become his father (John 8:44). What is the "likeness and image" of God? It is my understanding that the "likeness and image" of God is the "Father-Son" likeness and image. This is why Adam had a son in his own likeness and image. There is no such thing as the Father image without the existence of a Son.

BIRTHING PROCESS

A birthing produces a seed from a progenitor and is received in an environment that will nurture and care for the seed. The seed then begins to develop into the image and likeness of its progenitor until it reaches complete development. Then it is separated from the nurturing environment and becomes the likeness and image of its progenitor.

What is required for a depraved human to become a born-again individual in the likeness and image of God the Father? *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart*

that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved” (Romans 10:9). The key word in this verse is “believe” which is the same thing Abraham did that brought his son Isaac into existence. Abraham had great faith, however it never produced the son he desired. When Abraham “believed” God, Isaac was the result of believing. When an individual believes according to Romans 10:9-13, the individual becomes born-again of the incorruptible seed.

DEATH IS THE RESULT OF A FREE-WILL CHOICE

Death was not in the tree of the knowledge of good and evil nor was it in the commandment given by God. Death was in Lucifer who became the devil. This is similar to life being in the Son: “He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life” (1 John 5:12). You could say that he that has the corruptible nature has death and he who does not have the

devil has not death. Death comes when an individual believes the devil who is the father of the death-sin-nature. This analogous to life is the result of believing in the Lord Jesus Christ who is life.

One or the other of these resides in the “empty house,” created by God in Adam to facilitate the one he chose to reside in the empty house. It was Adam’s freewill choice.

“And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;” (Ephesians 4:23). The key word in this verse is the word “renewed,” which would bring the same result. If the death nature is contained only in the mind then Christ’s death was in vain. Why would I say this? All a person would need to do is change his mind and the spirit would disappear from his mind. When that same individual believed in Christ, would Christ become the new spirit contained within the mind? The same principle must be applied to both situations. When Adam believed the

serpent and the death nature only entered his mind why would not the same thing happen when he believed in the Lord Jesus Christ. This is using the same principle—believing—which produces two different results. Believing the devil placed the death-nature-spirit in the mind area. All that needs to be done in this situation is change the mind to get rid of the death-nature-spirit. Applying this same principle believing in the Lord Jesus Christ would place the “Christ in you” spirit-nature in the mind area as it did when believing the devil. The point is spirit resides in the area designed by God to facilitate or house that which is spirit. The soul-mind is the house of the thinking process and does not contain that which is spirit or body. Either of these two affect the mind but their existence remains outside of the mind in the area created by God to facilitate them.



Line Upon Line

“For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little.” (Isaiah 28:10)

We have testimony from believers of being brought to a revelation of Christ as their life, by the Holy Spirit, while in intensive study of the Line Upon Line lessons. This was the Apostle Paul’s testimony in Galatians 1:15-16 and his prayer in Ephesians 1:15-23.

THE CHRIST-LIFE WEEKLY BIBLE CLASS

An opportunity for the serious Bible Student to come into our being one with Christ through the Christ-life message. The lessons are written and edited by Warren Litzman and can be used in classes or groups as study guides, as well as for individual study. Here is how the program works:

- ▶ Each student will be enrolled individually.
- ▶ A lesson will be mailed to each student, from our office, every Monday.
- ▶ Each lesson will carry some important aspect of the Christ-life message, along with Scriptures to search on the lesson’s subject. Also, various other subjects dealing with faith, giving, teaching our children the Christ-life, healing, etc.
- ▶ Membership fee for the class and lessons is \$33 per quarter (13-week period). **For U.S. only: Available on website soon.**

“I would like to join the class ____.”
 “I would like to continue to the next quarter ____.”

Name _____
 Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address: _____

Enclosed: \$ _____ in payment of _____ quarter.

**Christ-life Fellowship, Warren & Robbie Litzman,
 Directors, P.O. Box 170307 • Dallas, TX 75217**

Grace Fellowship International
P.O. Box 170307
Dallas, Texas 75217-0307
Address Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Dallas, Texas
Permit No. 3147

WEEKEND IN THE WORD

PINE COVE, TYLER, TEXAS

NOVEMBER 7-10, 2013

<http://www.pinecove.com/summer-camps/woods>

EXTRA DAY ADDED TO THE CONFERENCE!



Check-in time: Thursday, November 7th at 3:00 P.M. We will then have supper at 6:30 P.M. and Warren will start teaching that night. The total price for adults (15 yrs. & older) will be \$195 from Thursday afternoon through Sunday lunch. We encourage everyone to come on Thursday if at all possible. For those of you who can only make it on Friday through Sunday lunch, the fee for adults will be \$155.

Deposit of \$50 per adult required to be sent to the Christ-life office. Contact the office as soon as possible (214-391-0488). The balance will be due in the CLF office by October 1st as Pine Cove requires full payment prior to the event. Please mail your check to the CLF office. Credit card charges have an additional \$3.00 charge per transaction.

To arrive a day early, the Hilton Garden Inn Hotel is quite nice and restful with a hot breakfast; they give a discount for those who mention they are staying at Pine Cove. Each person will have to take care of this at <http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/hotels/index.jhtml> (or you may phone).