

The Liberating Secret Newsletter

November 2008

Volume 47

**Called to bring:
The Whole Gospel, to the Whole man, to the Whole World.**
(All of Christ in, and manifesting as, all of redeemed humanity)

Saturday, Nov 1, 2008: The Call California - LIVE from San Diego is going to be Led by Lou Engle.

This massive prayer gathering is an ideal opportunity for believers worldwide to rally together and intercede for the nation of America and for God's Will to be done in the presidential elections. The outcome of this election will have international ramifications, so let's turn to the One who is sovereign and stand with the global Body of Christ as we pray for the USA.

The Gospel goes out through-out the world from the USA. Let us all pray for America and for our up and coming president, whoever he might be.

November is a month for thanksgiving to us American's that it, yet thanksgiving is **always** appropriate in the Kingdom of God. Doing the will of God, as the Word says, is to be thankful for all things (I Thes. 5:18). And that means being thankful even for the election whether your preferred candidate wins or not. What most Christians don't seem to realize is what Nebuchadnezzar, the Iraqi king knew very well. This is what he said centuries before Jesus was born, "Thou know that the most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomsoever He will" (Daniel 4:32). That's not to say that folks shouldn't vote, no, to the contrary, we must vote, but don't trust the government to be your savior, trusting the world system will never work. But if you trust in our God, you will never be disappointed.

**Too much Political attention can be an diversion from the Gospel
This excellent article puts us back on track.** Submitted by Nancy Gilmore.

**Here are some thoughts from John MacArthur's article called:
Politics, Activism, and the Gospel**

With the nation focused on the November elections, we thought a post on politics might be appropriate. The point of this article is not that we should abstain from any participation in the political process, but rather that we must keep our priorities straight as Christians. After all, the gospel, not politics, is the only true solution to our nation's moral crisis.

We can't protect or expand the cause of Christ by human political and social activism, no matter how great or sincere the efforts. Ours is a spiritual battle waged against worldly ideologies and dogmas arrayed against God, and we achieve victory over them only with the weapon of Scripture. The apostle Paul writes: "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself

against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor. 10:3-5).

God is not calling us to wage a culture war that would seek to transform our countries into "**Christian nations.**" To devote all, or even most, of our time, energy, money, and strategy to putting a facade of morality on the world or over our governmental and political institutions is to badly misunderstand our roles as Christians in a spiritually lost world.

God has above all else called the church to bring sinful people to salvation through Jesus Christ. Even as the apostle Paul described his mission to unbelievers, so it is the primary task of all Christians to reach out to the lost "to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me (Christ)" (Acts 26:18; cf. Ex. 19:6; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9).

If we do not evangelize the lost and make disciples of new converts, nothing else we do for people--no matter how beneficial it seems--is of any eternal consequence. Whether a person is an atheist or a theist, a criminal or a model citizen, sexually promiscuous and perverse or strictly moral and virtuous, a greedy materialist or a gracious philanthropist--if he does not have a saving relationship to Christ, he is going to hell. It makes no difference if an unsaved person is for or against abortion, a political liberal or a conservative, a prostitute or a police officer, he will spend eternity apart from God unless he repents and believes the gospel.

When the church takes a stance that emphasizes political activism and social moralizing, it always diverts energy and resources away from evangelization. Such an antagonistic position toward the established secular culture invariably leads believers to feel hostile not only to unsaved government leaders with whom they disagree, but also antagonistic toward the unsaved residents of that culture--neighbors and fellow citizens they ought to love, pray for, and share the gospel with. To me it is unthinkable that we become enemies of the very people we seek to win to Christ, our potential brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Author John Seel pens words that apply in principle to Christians everywhere and summarize well the believer's perspective on political involvement:

A politicized faith not only blurs our priorities, but weakens our loyalties. Our primary citizenship is not on earth but in heaven. ... Though few evangelicals would deny this truth in theory, the language of our spiritual citizenship frequently gets wrapped in the red, white and blue. Rather than acting as resident aliens of a heavenly kingdom, too often we sound (and act) like resident apologists for a Christian America. ... **Unless we reject the false reliance on the illusion of Christian America, evangelicalism will continue to distort the gospel and thwart a genuine biblical identity.....**

American evangelicalism is now covered by layers and layers of historically shaped attitudes that obscure our original biblical core.

By means of faithful preaching and godly living, believers are to be the conscience of whatever nation they reside in. You can confront the culture not with the political and social activism of man's wisdom, but with the spiritual power of God's Word. Using temporal methods to promote legislative and judicial change, and resorting to external efforts of lobbying and intimidation to achieve some sort of "Christian morality" in society **is not our calling--and has no eternal value. Only the gospel rescues sinners from sin, death, and hell.** Here, Here!!!!

Enough said about the election. What I want to report to you who are friends and family of Christ, Our Life Ministries is this: We at Christ our life Ministries are so thankful for the very successful and most wonderful tour through Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. We made 10 different stops and spoke numerous times with a wonderful response to the message of Christ, Our Life. Here is a journal of our trip:

On the Road again!

Hey everybody, Dad and I are on the road again in our RV. As you already know we are traveling on tour and ministering to God's Precious People in North Carolina, Virginia, and South Carolina. Our first stop was in Gatlinburg where we spent the night, and on through the mountains to Granite Falls, North Carolina. We left our RV at our friends, Vernon and Linda Berryhill house's in Granite Falls, due to the gas shortage, and drove our car to Martinsville, Virginia where Margaret Lester arranged for us to teach all the Sunday School classes at her church in the chapel. Then we went to Lynchburg to have a meeting at Leawood Baptist Church. Another home fellowship joined us at the church for a wonderful meeting. Mary and Henry Enochs and Martha and Bernie Germeroth heard us on the radio when we were broadcasting in the Lynchburg area. They were keen to share the Liberating Secret with their friends at the Leawood church. The response was tremendously accepted, by lay folks as well as ministers. The surprise has been that ministers have so readily accepted these truths.

The pastor at the leawood Baptist church was so thanksgiving for what he heard. He said the whole body of Christ needs to know this truth. Of course we agreed since that is our hearts calling too. We went back to Martinsville to do a brunch where we expected mostly women, but to our surprise, there were just as many men. A local pastor brought his people to hear, and we found out the they have their Sunday church meeting around our TV show that broadcasts in Martinsville, Va. The wife of the pastor said something that certainly sticks with me, she said, **"If the body of Christ could get a hold of this truth we could change the world."**

I am so thankful that the Lord has brought pastors to us, and I am sure there are many more hungry to hear. I was in Lenoir, NC last summer at Carol Maltba's Church. She so graciously accepted us that I remarked that she was one of the first pastors who have ever done so- she prophesized to me by saying that **"she was the first of many pastors."** I said, "I am taking that as from the Lord." And so far, two pastors and one Bible teacher has accepted the truth of union with Christ from us. Times are changing, and we are privileged to see it.

Next we went to Greensboro, NC where we meet with Richard and Cheri Manus's church at a home meeting. The Spirit is moving mightily as folks are discovering who they are. Then we went to Richard's home in Winston-Salem. They talked us into staying the night and they called all their friends for another meeting. A minister and his wife were there including other acquaintances. The minister responded wholeheartedly which is always a surprise to me. Also, Louis Tucker meet us there, and also went with us to Grantite Falls to pick up our RV. Paul Chapman came to a day and a half of pure fellowship with our new friends, Vernon and Linda Berryhill.

We then went to Concord, NC to visit with Louis's family and finding another home for our RV while we went to **The Billy Graham Organization**. We had a great time recording for "The Hour of Decision" radio show. The interviewer ask us how the Billy Graham's

organization fits into our testimony. As you already know, we repeated our testimony (written in the October's Newsletter). We recorded about 45 minutes so I expect a copy of the program soon in the mail.

The next day we headed towards Wilmington, NC where our friends, Marian and Grey Dixon hosted 4 meetings for the church friends as would come. Here we go again, two more ministers came and entered in the fellowship of union truths. What a blessing. That makes **6 ministers** all together. Carol Maltba was right, this is just the beginning. Oh, yes, Louis Tucker, and Paul Chapman came as well. Everyone loved hearing from Louis, actually we were all stunned by his talk from Galatians. The Dixon's want him to come to minister again sometime soon.

After the Wilmington meetings I taught the Pawley's Island Woman's Retreat. What a week of fellowship, fun, sharing, meeting new people, teaching, eating great food, praying, singing and whatever the Spirit wants us to do. If you have never been to Pawley's just plan to come next time. The Spring meeting will be March 13, 2009. The week-end will be when we do the major teaching and the rest of the week will be "hang-out" time with the girls. Both sessions are fabulous. Make your plans early.

The power of the Lord is certainly acknowledged in preaching and teaching, but I have always seen that the real power is in the transforming effect of the gospel preached. We are seeing tremendous transformation in the women the Lord gives us at Pawley's. Everybody see it, and we all marvel. I guess the proof of the ministry is seen in the fruit it produces. Pawley's Island Women's Retreat has proven to be very much thankfully fruitful.

While Dad and I are in Hilton Head, we are going to have a meeting at Lucie and Larry Mann's house. That meeting will be on Nov. 2. Larry invited his men's Bible study as well as many people from his church—pray for us. On our way home we are stopping by Nashville to do several meetings. Continue to pray for open minds, open ears, and open hearts.

CHRIST, OUR LIFE MINISTRY--TWENTYNINE PALMS, CALIFORNIA

Hello Christ Our Life Ministries,

My name is Kristi Rice of Twentynine Palms, CA (that's near Palm Springs, in the normally hot, sunny desert of So. Cal). I have wanted to share with you for awhile what the Lord has done in our lives and the lives of others out here in our little city of Twentynine Palms.

My husband Gordon and I were involved in ministry over the last 10 years of our marriage at 3 different churches here locally, we were on the previously on praise teams and in youth ministry, it was awesome!, We've truly loved and honored our pastors at each of these churches but it was because of Christ Our Life Ministries/ The Liberating Secret(Sylvia Pearce), Vision writers Intl.(Jaque Banas) and reading most of Norman Grubbs books, among other greats, that we strongly sensed we were outgrowing our church, and didn't have the same vision as the churches we attended. We loved sharing our freedom in Christ with others, but sadly not everyone appreciated our enthusiasm for wanting everyone else to know the

liberating secret of "Christ in us(them), the hope of glory." also. So, we weren't entirely surprised when God asked us to purposely name the desires of our heart and foremost was the desire to share the "whole gospel" with all we knew, to whomever would listen and dig deeper with us. In March 08', Gordon and I said goodbye to our church and sent them all a fairwell letter briefly explaining our leaving, but also including Sylvia's tri-fold pamphlet "Not I, But Christ" (Galatians 2:20). I was hoping to hear privately from some within the church, but we didnt. But Gordon, my son Austin (now 13) and myself went down to my office (my home computer had crashed at that time) and watched many of the online programs that Christ Our Life Ministries offered, then we'd discuss and pray that God would enlarge our territory and bring the whosoevers that he was calling outside the mainframe building of the church to us.

After returning from a glorious flyin' high time at Sylvia and Scott Pearce's "God Unlimited" conference in May 08', the Lord told to go home with the video materials Scott Pearce gave us and invite others to our home who were hungry for the Lord but not attending a specific church regularly, so we did. The Lord showed us to start with the Cd series of Romans 6-8, so we did. The Lord certainly didnt have to twist my arm though, as Romans is my favorite book of the bible and I could study and re-study it forever! So we invited others to come over for praise, prayer and bible study on Sunday mornings and immediately 3 of our dear friends said, "Yes!" They too were very hungry for a more intimate walk with the Lord and felt undernourished in our local city churches. A couple months passed and then during the summer we added a baby Christian to the group and he felt right at home he said. We also get to love on him and disciple him together, and it's wonderful!!! Including my sons we have also added two teenagers, a third occasional teenager (all boys) and a young 3 yr old grandson of my dear friend Mary Elena's named Ezra. The boys/men are rising up!!!

We are now finishing up the book, "Destined for the Throne" by Paul Billheimer, that we have worked and prayed through chapter by chapter. We have had cookouts together, camped in out nat'l park together, seen christian movies together, and enjoyed several Sunday suppers together. We have found that having a home church, which we have named, "Christ Our Life of 29 Palms", has been the biggest blessing ever for all of us involved.. I've found that the early church painted a vivid picture to me of what true "koinonia" in the body was/is and we too have joyously found that there is true brotherly love, intimacy and abiding friendship that is fostered and to be found in the Body of Christ within smaller groups of people. We call each other anytime for prayer, help each other out financially, emotionally, and spiritually and most importantly speak the Truth over one another when we we feel down, tested or are in need of prayer. We pray in total agreement by faith for one another and have even recieved visions, dreams and words of knowledge for one another. Sometimes we've spent two whole hours praying for one specific brother or sister in our prayer circle, it's been a rich and glorious time. Well, I could go on and on....but I won't.:>)

What I will say is that if God has put on your heart to share His Truth in this way, with a small group of hungry believers, you will be so blessed by your obedience. I sense that there are many hurt, discouraged and tormented brothers and sisters that would love for you to ask them into your home for intimate prayer and bible study. Pray and see what the Lord would say to you.

Might I also add, that while at the God Unlimited conference in May 08', a word was given to

husband and I from the Lord that we would "Run With Horses", a brother in Christ saw horses in our lives. As of yet we don't know the full meaning of this word, for it has yet to be revealed to us in its entirety, but we know that we are riding and trampling the gates of hell through intercession and seeing many of our family members set free and delivered from their bondages. We, as you are, are praying for our nation like never before and interceding for our brothers and sisters in chains in other parts of the world where they are not free to live as Christians openly and endure much persecution. We've seen God answer our prayer of faith for others. sometimes so rapidly, it's amazing! Praise you Lord!!! We know to that He is calling the body to spend more intimate time with Him, to cry out to Him and listen closely to His answers within. "For today, if you will hear His voice, harden not your hearts as in the rebellion." (Hebrews 3:15) he says to us.

There is an evangelization of the church we are being called to this day! A great awakening in the body is and will continue to occur. And no matter what seemingly troublesome times we might be headed toward, God is in the details of each of our lives!!!, God is using EVERYTHING for His good and His glory, Hallelujah... for we choose daily to see with His single eye of faith,... JESUS!!! The answer for all mankind. Brothers and Sisters this IS a glorious time for the church, for she will rise up and be strengthened and her focus (eyes) and hearing (ears) will be upon the voice of her Bridegroom, the Lord, so that the mystery of the gospel of Christ in us will be known to all He has called to Himself. So rise up men of God, and daughters of Zion, be of good cheer, for you have overcome the world!

God Bless you all richly,

Kristi Rice

Live Internet Sunday School: Sign up now!

Global Sunday School This study now in progress is a verse by verse study of Galatians **live with Brian Coatney**. The method will be texting style participation for those who sign up and receive a logon. This is a discussion class for people I don't already know, where I will guide with comments on Galatians, and class members can share insights all throughout the 75 minute class that will take place from 2:00-3:15 GMT each Sunday. Your assigned logon will ensure privacy, and classes will not be archived for public access. This is a live class for enjoying a time of fellowship and insight in the moment. Later, we can add in audio or video components, but the idea now is to get going. When class size reaches 10-12, class members will talk about how to divide into two classes. Watch the web site for details on when we will be set up to go. For more information please contact Brian Coatney at: coatneys@newwavecomm.net

It would be great if any of our old timers would help to encourage new folks to join this class, since the class is only designed to facilitate new people.

Comments about the global Sunday School class!

The chat room is fun. I've had one lady, Karen Norris from Knoxville, since near the beginning, and Candy Reiger joined us yesterday for a fun and lively class In Gal 4..

Two others have enrolled, but only one of them has logged in for a class (Beth Tobbye from Morganfield KY). It occurred to me others might like to host a class. The "competition" doesn't bother me if anyone wants to jump in with the concept. Love, Brian



Would you like **radio in your area?** Please contact **Margaret Lester** at marlester@comcast.net for more information.

Please send me the news in your area to be posted in this Newsletter. sylviap@theliberatingsecret.org

Quotes

Freedom contains double possibilities. Life can go downward into lack and destruction, or upward into fullness and completion. We liberate mere possibility into manifested reality— How?--By the spoken word of faith, we bring mere possibility out of freedom unto actualized manifested reality. Sylvia Pearce

William Blake who said "without contraries nothing exists..."

St. John of the Cross says: "This wound is delectable." John of the Cross goes on to say: "After the dark and painful night of the spirit there is...a divine awakening...the soul uses a similitude (i.e. an example) of one that awakens from his sleep, and says, 'how gentle and loving is...thine awakening, O Word and Spouse, in the center and depth of my soul...wherein alone, secretly and in silence, Thou dwellest as it's Lord. This divine awakening is an inspiration of the Word manifesting His dominion, His glory and His intimate sweetness."

The sin and pride of the world is: "I am sufficiently able, so I really don't need God." While the sin and pride of the Christian is: "I'll give Christ permission to help me be sufficiently good enough, and advance His kingdom by my own efforts." Sylvia Pearce

It does seem that man with his limited wisdom is intent upon filling the world with his thoughts on divine things. All this knowledge is a tower of Babel, that seems 'to hide its head in the clouds, but as to its reaching of heaven, it is no nearer to that, than the earth on which it stands. It is thus with all the buildings of man's wisdom and natural abilities in the things of salvation; he may take the logic of Aristotle, add to that the rhetoric of Tully, and then ascend as high as he can on the ladder of poetic imagination, yet no more is done to the reviving the lost life of God in his soul, than by a tower of brick and mortar to reach heaven' (**William Law**).

"Forgiveness is the fragrance the violet offers the heel that crushes it."

Kierkegaard talks of being a Knight of resignation as opposed to a Knight of faith. To all appearances, the Knight of resignation looks like the ideal Christian (and, in fact, is in a valid first step) by his acceptance of the situation "as is." But the Knight of faith can rise up and

receive back his Isaac even as he is offering him up. It is that unique sense of expectancy (though paradoxically thrown into an absurdity of faith which follows the path of loss, yet knowing it will never extinguish our real heart's desire) that keeps the man of God *proving* the heart of God, and not merely being loyal to it. Soren Kierkegaard

"The **adventure of adversity** when seen in its true perspective, it is found to be the doorway into God's most transcendent secret--that adversities and sufferings, which in their origin are the effects of sin and instruments of the devil, in the grasp of faith become REDEMPTIVE. They are transfigured from the realm of merely something to be endured as an opposition of Satan, to something to be used to conquer their author and redeem his victims. Faith in times of adversity makes the serpent swallow itself! Once again the supreme proof of this is that when Satan made his fiercest attack in history on the person of Christ, God used that attack through the faith and endurance of the Sufferer, to bring about the world's salvation. God uses evil to bring about good." Norman P. Grubb

Letters

Dear Sylvia

It is mind blowing. How is it that you understand these spiritual truth and able to explain it to others? I have been for years trying to understand Norman's teaching on Union Life but I never fully understood it until I read your books. Each time I read a spiritual truth you have revealed in your book, I have to stop and praise God. At times my eyes fill with tears in the revelation of the Truth in your books. At other times I dance! - for the Truth does liberate us. Starting in Hinduism and later becoming a Christian when I was a graduate student in Scotland and now finding total liberty in spirit after reading your books as been an adventure. Now I want to share this Truth with so many of my Christian friends in bondage - yes Christians but still living in the Middle Kingdom. I just do not know how to thank you for writing these booklets. If there is any way I can assist please ask. I hope to convert what you have written into PowerPoint presentation charts and send you a copy. I hope to do this as soon as I am time available. (I am presently completing my second doctorate = PhD in banking and just completed the thesis)

It is our prayer that one day we will be able to distribute your books in Malaysia - better still if the door opens to invite you for a conference!. Of course this I do not see happening just now - but I am keeping this window open. Vivien and I hope to see you next September.

Loving you in Christ.

Vivien & Vijay
Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia

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Dear Sylvia

Thank you for trusting these precious books with us. We feel very privileged and at the same time we tremble because we now have in our possession God's TRUTH - a pearl of great value - the liberating truth that will one day release many Malaysian Christians. God will hold us responsible how we use His TRUTH. We promise to take full custody and any changes or edits we make will not be published without your written approval and blessing. Vivien and I can only add or cross reference a few lines to provide the reader further information that what Norman has been sharing is not something unique but the Lord's Truth which has been caught and taught by many others I will send you a list of other well known authors who have said similar things

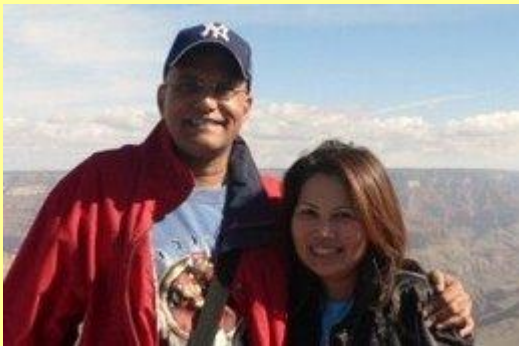
BUT you have managed to simplify and take the TRUTH one step further by using real life stories and via simple diagram share it with many others.

I plan to start with "God Means Evil for His Good Purposes" - perhaps add a few cross reference and have this out first. I may add a few more quotes from Norman's other books and Union Life magazine - may even cross reference this to treasures. I may want to keep treasures as the foundation book on Union Life teaching. Not sure yet, because you have so much of good teachings in your booklets too. May be just rearrange the various theme on Union Life running in your other books and put it together. Will ponder and get back.

We will meet Sylvia for it appears that it is not by chance that I should know you.

In His Service

Vivien & Vijay





Dear Sylvia,

You never know Sylvia. One day you may even come to Malaysia! God does the impossible!

I am a Hindu by birth and the Lord took me to Scotland to Napier University in Edinburgh, where thru strange circumstances I came to know Him. After I become a Christian, Satan visited me and demanded my soul as I had sold my soul to him as a student in High School. I saw the ground beneath me open and I had a vision of hell fire. As I was falling, I told Satan he can NEVER have my soul and even if I fall into hell, I will not renounce JESUS. Right than I saw a huge hand catch me as I was falling and I was delivered from the pit of hell. There has been much testing and pain but the Lord delivered me from my enemies. My father who disowned me for becoming a Christian was the first person to be saved in my family!!!! God also told me He is my match maker and I should not be dating or seeking a wife. He will bring her to me. HE DID. 10 years after I was saved, He showed me Vivien and said she was to be my wife. I did nothing. HE brought Vivien to me!. There are many other adventures of faith - just like you and your mother's! One day it would be nice to sit and share our stories.

Thank you for sharing your ministry with us. We can only thank the Lord. I hope I can get the final paper out for the PhD. I can then concentrate in doing what I enjoy most - teaching others of Union Life.

The Chinese letter for CRISIS is made up of two words - WEI CHI one is danger the other is opportunity. So every crisis offers with a danger and an opportunity. I have attached some pictures.

Vijay



Dear Vijay and Vivien,

I am so humbled by your response that I can't stop thanking the Lord that He has used me to simplify His treasured truths. It is such a honor to be a part of giving these truths to the world. Some time ago, the Lord said to me, "I am calling you to take the Whole gospel, to the Whole Man, to the Whole world." I wondered, "How in the world can I do that?" This from you is part of that fulfillment. God bless you and your precious wife Vivien. If I can do anything else to help you please let me know.

My love for you both,

Sylvia



Dear Sister

Received the copy of God meant good for evil. Thanks. I am working on this book first because I feel this is the book that the folks at the largest church in Malaysia which is going thru a crisis need. I know there are many members at Calvary Church Malaysia who are disillusioned with the church. More than half the congregation wants to get rid of the senior pastor because they have lost faith in him. They are angry that their hard earned offerings is being spend in luxury travel and comfort living by the pastor and his wife. There are confused how this evil can turn up into good or purposed by God!

I am pressing the NECF to get involved in church governance but there are afraid of repercussion from the large churches. How glad that Vivien and I are not tied to any church or denomination but fully liberated in the Lord to speak the truth and not be afraid of the church. We are the CHURCH universal and we thank the Lord for getting us kicked out of the last church because it was the door to Union Life and YOU!!!! We will never go back to the church but minister freely as the Lord leads - hence the timely union with your ministry. It is all in His plan.

I have a spare air-conditioned room with attached bathroom for you if you ever visit Malaysia. WE WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU - SISTER!. We will see how the Lord leads. By all means use my testimony. Perhaps one day I will write a bit more and how I finally found total peace, liberty and faith in Union Life.

Please send me a photo of Wei Chi once your daughter has made it. Please note that the word is challenged by non Christians because they cannot understand this concept but I have appended a sermon based on the two character which may be of interest to you.

Vijay



My dear friend,

Thank you so much for this sermon from Rev. Gibson. It is very inspiring, I plan on using it in my next Newsletter. Every dangerous situation is, yes an opportunity for God to come in and deliver in some miraculous way or another. Instead of fear, and unbelief, we stand in faith and watch God come through in victory. Many ministers and ministries here in America are misusing God's money in the same fashion as you described in your e-mail. God's church cannot be built on materialism and greed. Unknowingly these leaders and ministers are leading God's people into bondage instead of liberation. I think the false

teaching of "Prosperity" is corrupting many. God certainly wants to prosper or deliver us out of every Wei Chi (crisis), but the devil has twisted true deliverance into the lust for fleshly comforts and pleasures. Your church in crisis and confusion needs to understand that it is not ours to try to figure out how God is going to use evil for his good in their situation, because trying to analyze the situation will cause more confusion and take them away from simple faith in God. Like Moses, if they will simply sing their songs of victory, the Lord will show them the way.

However, my guess is that God is showing them the wrong use of prosperity so that the Spirit can show them the way of faith revealed so powerfully in the sermon that you sent me.

Abraham had to learn the wrong way first, by trying to make a son his own way instead of waiting for the miracle. Sometimes our best lessons are learned by experiencing what doesn't work, then replacing them with the right way of faith. The wrong way can be our teacher, pointing us to the right way.

Crisis is always our opportunity and an adventure of faith, Our only real danger in a crisis is that we stay in unbelief, resentment, bitterness, unforgiveness and pride. Keep your inner eye on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, and He will direct our paths. Once we learn God's ways we will have His wisdom on the subject. "Lean not on your own understanding, but in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths" God always shakes everything that can be shaken, so that only what is Christ will remain."

Your Sister in Christ,  
Sylvia

## Poems of the Month

### The Future Election

The Lord is coming soon,  
when, we don't know.  
The news networks can't say either,  
unconvinced of His coming.

When that election comes,  
the vote will not be close.  
The majority may have voted against Him,  
the polls right about a 666 victory all the way;

but when He comes, His own vote  
for Himself will be enough.  
Democracy will temporarily fail,  
for kings don't worry about polls or votes.

He'll arrive in a ship seen by the world,  
with hosts too numerous to count.  
UFO lovers will wilt aghast then

at who the real aliens are.

Democracy might start up again,  
with a wink, safe sons knowing  
where true republics flourish,  
and what makes for a cornerstone.

The elect will cry joyfully,  
a celebration that would continue  
long into the night,  
except there won't be night.

No one will write old nature poetry!  
Maybe the best thing of all will be the networks;  
they will finally have the real scoop.

11-3-04: revised 10-31-08

## 401 K

A giant hairdryer, the size of the moon  
came down and blew the sea out from land  
far, far away,  
and so went our 401 K.

Many debate; others run for the mattress,  
to stash the remnant of their cash,  
desperate for peace,  
in a Wall Street fleece.

Once I would have looked for a high window,  
to see much talk and little money;  
but money's not this departed sea,  
not the pathway in this misery.

The false detour is fear: a temporal stranglehold,  
thorn bushes allowed to choke,  
grown dense, unburned, uncleared—  
this is why many have veered.

But look, take the dry path opened up  
before you, into a wilderness of grace;  
burning bushes lie there, angel food cake, and more,  
water from a rock, sweet like before.

Brian Coatney

## Prayer Request

We have had a great response from our prayer warriors and God has and is answering our ministry prayer request, keep it up intercessors!

Here is just one e-mail we got from one of our prayer warriors.

*May you know and be reminded that myself and I know many, many others continue in prayer for this God-filled ministry. I so appreciate the newsletter because it 'proves' my prayers have been answered, in one way or another. Yes, I will continue to pray for the financial needs of this ministry.*

*When I read of others' gratitude for you I completely understand for your message continues to change my life and those around me. God bless you Sylvia over and over again. You are a jewel!*

*With much love,  
Suzy Hall (Nashville)*

This is from Paul E. Billheimer's book, "Destined, to Overcome." **"Prayer is where the action is.** John Wesley said, "God does nothing but in answer to prayer," and E. M. Bounds tells us "God shapes the world by prayer."

**A great illustration** is the account of the Israelites battle against the Amalekites. Satan, God's enemy had stirred up the heathen nation of Amalek to fight the Israelites trying to keep them from entering the promise land. As the battle was beginning, Moses said to Joshua, "Choose us out men, and go out, and fight with Amalek: tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand." Joshua and his men began the battle. "And Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. And it came pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed" When Moses grew tired and could no longer hold up his arms, Aaron and Hur stood up on either side and supported him until the battle was won by God's people and Amalek was defeated.

These 3 men, Moses, Aaron and Hur were united in holding up the rod (symbolizes the Cross) of God, and also symbolic of His power and prayer. When the intercessors engaged in believing prayer, Satan's forces were bound and paralyzed. Then God's children were victorious. To the casual observer the battle was won in the valley where the troops were

engaged but to the spiritually discerning the battle was won on the mountaintop. Prayer is truly where the action is. Paraphrased by Margaret Lester

This Month's Article:

## **DOUBLE-CROSS**

**Dan Stone**



### **THE DOUBLE CROSS PREFACE**

With this book, my desire is for the Spirit of God in me to speak to the Spirit of God in you. I want you to read that phrasing as a single unit, for that is what it is. To be indwelt by the Spirit of God is not just a concept. Concepts are very important but concepts do not reveal spiritual truth, just information about spiritual truth. We process information through our brains and if it sounds reasonable, we accept it. That is why faith is so hard to come by.

In our human existence "seeing is believing" and in our faith existence "blessed is he who believes and has never seen". Difficult to explain. However, we do not need to be able to explain indwelling in order to believe it has occurred. The Holy Spirit has been our confirmation.

Once we believe something we work on our discovery until we whittle it down to some sort of explainable concept in order that we may share truth with someone else. But "faith comes by hearing". Therefore, I am asking you to suspend the process by which we usually come to accept something as true. Suspend the "thinking" and just allow God's Spirit to speak

to your spirit. He can do that! You listen and “hear”. You will do this by faith.

I wanted to write this book for a very specific reason. In traveling back and forth across the country sharing my understanding of the Christian life I have found that most Christians have experienced only a portion of what Christ came to earth to give them. I must admit to being in the same position for the first 24 years of my own Christian life so I was not surprised.

I often discuss the importance of 2 Corinthians 4:18. It reads, “While we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.” (NKJ). This means that the spiritual realm is known only as God reveals it and the spiritual realm is the eternal one. The seen side, the earthly realm, though tangible, is incomplete and partial. It will pass away. The spiritual realm is everlasting.

We have an inkling of what this all means, but we still have a problem. Let me state it personally. “Though Christ has come into my life, I seem unchanged. The evil I did yesterday, I’m still doing today. How can God accept that? Am I still lost? I feel the same. I still sin.”

Try as we might, we cannot totally answer our problem with sinning in this earthly existence. The answer is spiritual and requires a revelation from God. He will communicate with our spirit, which is inner—life and eternal, alive and living. He will not communicate with our brains. (Romans 8:16). The brain belongs to the body which is temporal and outer-life; alive yet dying. Naturally He is going to communicate with the part of us that is eternal.

This book will examine the Cross of Christ from the realm of the ‘seen’ and the realm of the ‘unseen’. In not understanding the ‘unseen’ side of the Cross we remain trapped with Paul in “for what I will to do, that I do not practice; but the will I hate, that I do,” (Romans 7: 15b NKJ). No wonder the Christian life is so difficult.

First we will review the aspect that applies to Christ’s death for us from both the ‘seen’ side and the ‘unseen’ side. Second we will examine what might well be classified as one of Paul’s “mysteries.”

“Lord, open my eyes that I may see  
Glimpses of truth thou hast for me.”  
Amen

## **The Seen Side of the Cross: He died for Us.**

“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust.”

I Peter 3:18a

There are two truths, of the Cross, therefore, I say two sides. I want us to examine both sides. This dual truth solves the confusion of the presence of sin in believers’ lives, when

understood by faith. Most believers understand one side of the Cross; He died for us. However, some readers will not have yet experienced the transforming power of Christ from this first side of the Cross. Let us examine it.

| <b>DIAGRAM #1</b>                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>The Cross: He died for us.</b>                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                    |
| <b>Past</b>                                                                                  | <b>Blood Present</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Future</b>      |
| <p>Sins forgiven<br/>Christ for me<br/>Eph. 1:7<br/>Col. 1:14<br/>Rom. 3:25<br/>Rom. 5:9</p> | <p>A good-evil syndrome,<br/>results in an attempt<br/>to reproduce life in<br/>ethics, psychology,<br/>sociology, economics,<br/>education, and/or<br/>religion.<br/>"I don't look dead."<br/>"I don't feel dead."<br/>Condemnation and guilt.</p> | <p><b>Hope</b></p> |

We will lean heavily on the Apostle Paul's teaching in this examination for we know Paul had a great love for his own people. (Roman's 9-11.) Because of this great love, Paul seeks to explain the Cross by using as many Old Testament references as possible. He is seeking to show his people that Jesus of Nazareth is the long awaited Anointed One spoken of and anticipated in the Old Testament.

Therefore, let us begin in the country of Egypt as God prepared to liberate the twelve tribes of Israel from the tyranny of a Pharaoh who did not know Joseph.

The scene was described in Exodus 12:1-13. The setting was the coming tenth plague for Egypt, the death of the eldest son of every household in the land. However, a provision was made for the Israelites. God, in speaking to Moses and Aaron, inserted an escape clause for them. (Ex.12:7,13.)

God was inaugurating a special event in the lives of His people. The escape clause was very specific. They must kill the innocent lamb and sprinkle its blood on the doorposts and lintels of their homes. When the death angel passed through the land he would bypass the homes where he saw the blood. Just hearing the plan would not be enough. They must hear and respond in obedience!

Their personal act of obedience would spare them this death experience. All the Israelites could do was either hear and believe, or hear and not believe. Let us keep that in mind as we look at the fact of His death for us.

The lamb of the Old Testament was sacrificial. The New Testament Lamb of God, Jesus,

is sacrificial. Both teach the same truth. Escape and deliverance. The ideas are one and the same. In the Old Testament the idea is defined in escape and deliverance. In the New Testament it is defined as forgiveness and new life.

Let us suspend time right there. Even after this act of obedience and the result of life spared, they were still in captivity to Pharaoh and under his threat. They were going to depart Egypt, but Pharaoh did not give up easily. (Ex. 14:18-31.) He pursued them all the way to the Red Sea. Even though God had kept His promise and they had been obedient, they were still in Egypt; still in captivity.

This is crucial to understand. God heard their cry for deliverance, "We want out!" God delivered. But they were still in a foreign land and under foreign rule. True, they were on their way to Canaan, but they were not out of Egypt. This is the same predicament in which Christians find themselves with just this side of the teaching on the Cross. We are still in bondage. And if we are obedient to the narrative described in the New Testament our lives are spared and we go to heaven. We are forgiven. Nothing else. The death "for us" bequeaths forgiveness only. When we believe, we have the assurance that we are a forgiven person. Stated in the terms we are used to hearing, "Our sins are forgiven."

Paul took this incident, which the Jews knew very well, and moved it into the New Testament, using it to explain the death of Christ. (See diagram 1.) Because the Israelites were obedient to God's instructions, they preserved the lives of their first born sons. Obedience = preservation.

Let me devise an illustration for you to see. You are a spectator of the crucifixion of three men outside the city of Jerusalem. Perhaps you are a pilgrim who has come to Jerusalem to observe Passover. You hear the crowd's comments, "Two are robbers and the one in the middle is a political and religious radical." But somewhere in your spirit you have the sensation of hearing a voice, a knowing. This inner, "unseen" voice says, "He is no political and religious radical. He is God's anointed and He is dying for you, for your sins. He will forgive you your sins if you will accept His offer. But you must obey and believe what you are hearing within you."

You are startled, scared, but convinced. For you are in Jerusalem to celebrate Passover, when God spared the Israelites first-born in every household that believed through obedience. You are caught by the gaze of this Jesus in your spiritual being. You know it is true. You obey the voice within. You are obedient. Your sins are forgiven!

And what are sins? Sins are the fruit of a deeper "unseen" problem. Christ dying for you does not speak to the "unseen" problem of sin. We see our sins and think their point of origin is "us". But sins point of origin is Sin, and the sin problem is still with us. A forgiven past is all we have, with a hope for a forgiven future hanging in the balance. Every day we are one day further from the experience of being forgiven and one day deeper into the hope that it will be enough. We need more blessed assurance. We are told that He will supply all our needs and we need to know it's true. We have such trouble living the Christian life.

Evangelicals are falsely taught (and therefore, falsely teach) that Christ's death for us

and our being forgiven will somehow apply to the problem of how to live the Christian life. But remember, forgiveness applies only to the past. When we try to apply Christ's dying for us to the living of the Christian life, it does not work. All that the Holy Spirit can teach us from this side of the Cross is our past sins are forgiven.

In churches where this one truth is the sole revelation, sermons sound like this. "Surely you've done something wrong this week. Surely you've committed sin. Even if you can't remember it, that's a sin of omission. You must admit it and God can forgive it." Consequently you are constantly being taken back to the Cross event and seeking to extract from it the way to live victoriously. But all you can get from this effort is the awareness you are still a sinning sinner.

Why do the people of our church always end most prayers with a plea for the forgiveness of their sins, even the ones they don't remember? I wonder if the Holy Spirit revealed to them that they were sinning? Let's try an experiment. Let's not ask for forgiveness anymore, unless the Holy Spirit convicts us. I know some of our backgrounds will call that heresy, but the Holy Spirit is able to reveal to us when we blow it and in our spirit we will agree with Him, thank Him, and get on with the business of living. If the Holy Spirit hasn't prompted us, then God hasn't prompted us. (John 16:8-15.)

Some of you are thinking, "Well surely I've done something wrong." I say if you have then the Holy Spirit will bring it to your attention. And your Advocate has already interceded on your behalf. (I John 2:1, not I John 1:9.) It is forgiven. What you've done wrong has already been dealt with. Agree with Him that you are forgiven.

However, because many believers haven't experienced consummate ongoing forgiveness (living in a state of forgiveness), all they are hearing is "surely you've done something wrong." We think it's humble to talk about being sinners. Oswald Chambers says we start with this false humility of calling ourselves sinners, this pious humbleness, in order to make ourselves sound good to the ears of men is near blasphemy to ears of God. Do you see the fallacy of continually calling yourself a sinner?

You say, "It is arrogant to the ears of men to say I'm righteous. I can't say I'm righteous. I can't say it."

Well, we had better decide with whom we are going to agree. Because if we do not agree with God we are never going to get out of the sin trap.

## **The False Self**

What then are we left with when all we have experienced is Christ's death for us? Simply, we are left with a forgiven past and a false self. The false self is a way of seeing ourselves that dearly does not agree with the way God sees us. The false self evolves into a desperate, everyday-existence for the believer.

The false self begins when you are born. Everyday we are learning from new evidence that if a mother drinks, smokes or takes drugs her fetus is affected. Hear this. As God was

conceiving you, Satan was conceiving the false you. (We all know Satan tries desperately to counterfeit all the creative workings of God. Therefore, Satan is busy conceiving the false self born in you.) Life, then, becomes a series of events that convince us who we are. We learn to weave our way through life in order to survive until we can die safely in the arms of our Lord.

Life is like working one's way through a maze, like a laboratory rat. If our world is chaotic, we learn to be quiet or submissive or sit in a corner. If playmates are wishy-washy, we learn to dominate them; play them against each other. If nobody likes us we learn to adjust to that. If we are popular we learn to adjust to that. When we fall in love we adjust to that. We get a job and on and on it goes, yet there is no reality in it. Still we plod on in this false existence because it seems so real. But haven't you ever said to yourself, "There has more to life than this."? This nagging unrest comes from God's heavenly call to our spirit.

Thomas Merton is excellent here. Let me quote from The New Man, "Spirit in Bondage" p. 101-128. "It is a spiritual disaster for a man to rest content with his exterior identity, with his passport picture of himself.. he assumes he is a person because there appear to be other persons who recognize him when he walks down the street. ..There is no other way for us to find out who we are than finding in ourselves the divine image.

The false self is a roller coaster, up and down. In evangelical circles, we learn how to ride the roller coaster as best we can. But this life belongs to the world that will pass away. Norman Grubb said, "It isn't long before your 'new life' eerily resembles you old life."

Romans 7 describes the false self. The good I want to do (and I really want to do it) but I can't. And what I don't want to do (oh, I'm so stuck in this pattern) I can't help but do it. Oh wretched person that I am. And we sell that as the good news? Well it's tragic. Where is the joy? Where is the peace?

There is a key word here. Self. You can't be good enough by yourself. You can't stop yourself. You can't change yourself. You can't save yourself. Self, self, self. You are preoccupied with self.

It is no wonder the How-To-Do-It books have been so popular. Many appeal to self-improvement. The Christian life (the way it has been taught) is self. Psychology is self. In the "seen" realm that is psyche, Psychology can help you, but it belongs to the "seen" realm. It will keep you in a rut that will never see spirit, because it deals with your psyche (feelings and thoughts). What is Psychology's leading question, "How did that make you feel?"

So I'm left with self, trying to be consistent. We blow it, then we try harder to live for the Lord. Let's take a typical 30 day period. You have made a new commitment to live for the upward call. For 29 days you have followed your prescription for new life perfectly but on the 30th day you mess up. What happens to your past-perfect 29 days? In your mind they are erased. Swallowed up by the mistake riddled 30th day. Isn't it amazing what the 30th day can do. We have all said, "I read the Bible, I prayed, I witnessed..."? Whatever it was, you did it for

29 days and the 30th day you got too busy, or you forgot and with that realization comes misery and you ruined it. Now you're right back to where you started. "Oh wretched man." (Romans 7:24.)

There is no good news in this. This is the trap of the false self. Professionals can help you with the false self, but only God can help you realize your true self. We're talking about growing in Christ and knowing Christ as our life. He is the Psychiatrist. He is the Psychologist. He is the Physician. He is the one who can expose this false self and relieve us of the pressure of playing games; relieve us of the pressure of thinking we have something real when all we've had is a real concept of who we are. He keeps exposing our false self and we work doubletime trying to patch it up. We are covered with band aids from Psychology and SELF-help.

What is the answer to the false self? Is there a final total solution to the vexing problem of false self?

Yes!

## The Unseen Side of the Cross: We Died with Him.

"...we judged us, that is one died for all, then all died."

2 Cor. 5:14b

Diagram #2

The Cross: We died with Him.

|                                                                                                                             | Body                                                                                                                                                                               |                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Past                                                                                                                        | Present                                                                                                                                                                            | Future           |
| <p>Rom. 6:1-10<br/>2 Cor. 5:14-21<br/>Eph. 1:4<br/>Col. 1:23<br/>Rom. 5:10<br/>John 6:53-58<br/>Col. 1:27<br/>Gal. 2:20</p> | <p>I IN CHRIST—<br/>CHRIST IN ME</p> <p>I in Christ.<br/>I in Christ.<br/>I in Christ.<br/>I in Christ.<br/>I in Christ.<br/>Christ in me.<br/>Christ in me.<br/>Christ in me.</p> | <p>Assurance</p> |

Now we transfer ourselves totally to the "unseen" realm, Paul's realm of mystery, where events are not as we know them and we encounter new ideas. (Romans 6:1-10 and 2 Corinthians 5:14-21.) The first passage says we are immersed into Christ's death. And that he who has died is freed from sin. The latter passage says that when one died, all died.

Impossible? Incredible? (2 Cor. 4:18.) Time is not a factor and people are not seen chronologically. Time is suspended. Paul is saying that we died with Christ. Right here is where our brains usually short-circuit. But you must take this by faith just as you did your forgiveness.

I know if you've not experienced this it seems unreal. But it is real. It seems untrue, but it is true because the unseen is eternal. (2 Cor. 4:18.)

Remember the earlier illustration of our being observers at the crucifixion and of the Spirit's role as interpreter of the true meaning of the event? Now the illustration must be changed. Let's create another.

It's as if you left the chair where you are reading and got up and disappeared into the body of Christ on the Cross. You are no longer standing before the Cross, you are in the body of Christ on that Cross. You are involved and you're on the Cross. From the Cross you look out and there is no crowd anywhere. They are all in Christ on the Cross with you.

So as He died how many died? All. When he was buried how many were buried? All. When He was raised how many were raised? All. When He ascended how many ascended? All. (Eph. 2:5-6.)

We were obedient spectators in our first illustration. We are no longer spectators, we are participants. We move from standing before the Cross, where He died for us, to being on the Cross, where we died with Him. So what happened to Jesus also happened to us. When one died, all died. Impossible? Incredible? Only if you let your brain be the place where you make agreement. You must let your spirit be the place of agreement.

Now, does all mean all but you? No... even you. This point demands a spirit revelation in order that you may agree with the Spirit. You died with Christ. Way back then a death that historically occurred, included you. The unseen realm defies time. It defies past, present, and future. There seems to be no way all of humanity could be at one death at one time, yet in the eternal, spiritual realm, we were.

Thomas Merton in Ascent to Truth, speaks of... "truths which are so profound and which so far exceed our intelligence that they are called in the highest sense— mysteries." Mysteries? Yes. Some things are so incredible to the human brain that you assign them the title of mystery. The brain won't compute a biblical mystery. It defies all things known. When time is involved the brain can only process it chronologically, therefore the brain must reject any experience that doesn't happen along the line of time.

That is precisely why God's Spirit must speak this truth to your spirit. Your spirit can know, but you need a vital connection with The Spirit. You have the spiritual capacity to know, but you have to be in union with The Spirit. (I Cor. 2:12,16.) Then you can recite what The Spirit has made known to you. You then experience what the Spirit has known before the beginning of time. One who has not yet seen will call us radicals, crazies, or even worse, heretics. To them it isn't logical to the orderly brain; it is therefore, unbelievable.

When the Children of Israel put blood on the door, even though their flesh was still in Egypt, in God's reality, they were in Canaan. Even as you read this, as you sit in your chair, your spirit sits in heavenly places. For when Christ died, you died. And where He lives, you live. Yes, you live in the realm of spirituality.

Hear now what Jesus also dealt with on the Cross. All these years you thought it was only your sins. But in truth it was your Sin, the root of the problem. Sin is the root, sins are the fruit! To God there is no fruit if no root exists. (Romans 6:1-4 and Romans 7:1-4.) We were immersed into His death with Him, we were buried with Him, we were raised with Him and according to Ephesians we are seated with Him in the heavenlies.

What a powerful statement. Let us make a quick summary.

As far as God is concerned, one man represents the entire human race. He was us. We were with (in) Him so that whatever He did, we did! Again, how many died? ALL DIED (2 Corinthians 5:14) How many were buried? ALL. How many were raised? ALL. How many are seated with Him in the heavenlies? ALL. Does all include you? YES!

From that moment your false self was dealt with (if you will believe it). Whatever you think you were to God (the false self), you are no longer that. In Romans you are called the "old man." Sin was your nature; it is your nature no longer. Romans 6:6,7 put the cap on the sin problem. Read it carefully. Paul says, "The old man (you before you met Jesus) was crucified with Jesus that the body of sin might be done away with." Maybe not in your sight, but in His, and He has the vote that counts. He is the judge. Can you imagine a criminal whose been excused by the judge who then stands up and recounts his crimes?

"Judge you can't excuse me from all I've done."

"But son, you are free, you are blameless."

"Not me. I'm a criminal."

That's what we do in the name of false piety. He died that we shouldn't be slaves of sin anymore. That sin slave master does not own us anymore. We have been purchased and freed.

There is a difference between committing a sin and being a sinner. A Christian may commit a sin, but he is not a sinner. A sinner is a nature. A sinner is a lost being who occasionally does a righteous act. He can do a righteous looking act, but to God he isn't righteous. And a Christian can commit a sin, but he's not a sinner. "He who is dead has been freed from sin" (Romans 6:6&7, NKJ.) You've been freed from a nature of sin.

The main point is in verse 7, "He who has died is freed from sin." Now look at verses 6:10,11 and let's couple it with 2 Corinthians 5:17 which says something else incredible that gets chipped away by theologians. "Behold, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation."

A new creation is a new creature! A new creature is one who never existed before. It's not you made over. It's not your old motives amended, perfected. It's not a second chance.

It's a new creature operating from a new disposition. It's reason-for-being is brand new. The new nature you possess is the nature of Christ. That's the new part, the spiritual nature. David Needham said something like this in *Birthright*, "A brand new person came into being who never before existed." Paul says this in Galatians 2:20, "I have been crucified with Christ, it is no longer I who live (as a person of sin), but Christ lives in me (as a person of righteousness)."

When you weren't a Christian you were an old creature, you had an old nature, a spirit of disobedience. (Eph. 2:2). When you were born again you became a new creation in Christ Jesus. That's how God sees you. He sees you white as snow. He doesn't see your sin. He can't tolerate that. He can't put band-aids on your attempts and failures; on your soul. You are not meant to remain a soul dominated person. He can't fix you. But here's what He can do. He can take you to the Cross, kill you, and raise you up again. It's the same vessel full of new life. He calls it a new creation. Praise the Lord!

In 2 Corinthians 5:21, Paul says another incredible statement. Let me quote it, "He (God) made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin (singular), Sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (Jesus).

Norman Grubb called this Paul's deepest statement on the Passion of Christ. "God made Jesus to be sin, so that we might be made the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus." This verse undergirds the reason I spoke so harshly about confession that we (righteous ones of God) are still sinners. Do you think it humble to stand in Church and say, "I'm a sinner."? Oh the devil is so wily. Your spirit has been wed to His Spirit. You have a marriage. Get over the negative. You are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. You are in union with the One who was never created.

This means we are righteous in God's sight. We lack nothing. Colossians 2:9,10, "For in Him (Jesus) dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily (and He lives in you) and you are complete in Him."

Look yourself in your mirror and say, "I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus!" That is the true confession.

You are in union with the uncreated God of creation. He cannot die (as He is originating, creating Spirit); therefore you cannot die (for you are now possessed by the divine Spirit). We have already admitted that a Christian can commit a sin, but the Christian is not a sinner. A sinner can do a righteous act. It happens all the time. But is that person righteous because of the act? No. His righteousness or unrighteousness is based on his relationship with God through Christ. That is why a Christian's conscience is bothered when he acts out of accordance with his true spirit. The Spirit says, "You did wrong, that was not me." Your spirit agrees with His Spirit (1 John 1:9.) and you get on with the business of living.

What stopped my Christian life of defeat was being told that I died in Him, that I was a brand new creation whose inner being had been invaded and replaced by the Godhead. Sin was out. Christ was in.

Just keep confessing it. "I am righteous."

"I am peace."

"I am love."

"My whole life has been put together." But the Holy Spirit must show you that you died. If He doesn't show you, you will forever thrash around trying to perfect the false self, trying to be your own savior. But if you see life from both sides of the Cross; He died for you and you died with Him, you are free indeed.

My final pleas are these. See yourself the way God sees you. Possess, by faith, this truth of God. It is yours. It is the free gift of grace if you will believe it. And if you will, you will see that what you take will take you. What you possess will possess you.

I want to include a dear friend's letter who heard this message delivered at a conference. She told me she could never see herself on the Cross with Christ. She was always at the foot of the Cross. I was led to give her the statements listed above and at last, she was caught. She left me saying she must think about it. I could see in her face and eyes that some Godly action was taking place. I saw her the next morning and she was radiant. Read her letter and rejoice with her. Her confession can also be yours. God bless!

*Dear Dan,*

*To possess my possession is the most significant step I've taken in my Christian walk, and I have the retreat and you to thank for pointing that out. It's amazing to me that my stumbling block was "not seeing myself on that Cross." No wonder my Cross was so heavy! I believe "church" training left me at the foot of the Cross and taught me to take up my cross and follow Jesus! To them I say now - No, No, No! That Cross will be too heavy. Jesus has already borne our Cross! We don't follow Him; He and I go as One! Well, Dan I'm hear to tell you, that spells RELIEF!! And, not I know that I do not have to understand how, but I just have to take what has been given! I can, with a very humble heart, say "Thank you, Jesus," and I can say thank you for the humans that helped me along the way.*

*I am now in Christ and "He is in me"*

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