



Bible Student's NotebookTM

The Herald of His Grace

Presenting *every man* perfect in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:28

Volume IV
Issue 86

I Choose!

Living Life to Its Fullest

Part II

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

I CHOOSE ... WORSHIP

worship.

I Choose to Live this Day in Worship to the Lord

"For we ... worship God in the spirit ..."
(Philippians 3:3).

I Choose to Live as a Habitation of God

"... an habitation of God through the Spirit"
(Ephesians 2:22).

My Father lives in me. I am His temple. I do not need to go anywhere special to worship Him. He has wonderfully designed my life to be lived, moment-by-moment, place-by-place, and circumstance-by-circumstance in the worship of Him.

"... The Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands" (Acts 17:24b).

"... Ye are the temple of God" (I Corinthians 3:16a).

"... Ye are the temple of the living God ..."
(II Corinthians 6:16a).

I choose to do all that I do today for Him. I choose every act to be for Him. I will live in the state of

"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God"
(I Corinthians 10:31).

"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him"
(Colossians 3:17).

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men" (Colossians 3:23).

Today I choose worship.

I CHOOSE ... JOY

I Choose to Live Today in Joy

I will not live under the dominion of my circumstances. I *will* live in the dominion of Lord. I will allow Him to live out His own joy in me.

"... We also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ ..." (Romans 5:11).

"But the fruit of the Spirit is ... joy ..."
(Galatians 5:22).

(continued next page)

I Choose the Joy of the Lord as My Strength

I will draw my own personal strength directly from the Lord Himself. I will live in His joy.

"... The joy of the LORD is your strength"
(Nehemiah 8:10).

I Choose His Unspeakable Joy

"... Yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory" (I Peter 1:8b).

I Choose a Merry Heart

I do not need to live depressed, discouraged, miserable, dejected, or unhappy, regardless of my circumstances. I will have a merry heart.

"A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance ..." (Proverbs 15:13a).

"... He that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast" (Proverbs 15:15b).

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine ..." (Proverbs 17:22a).

I Choose to Be a Helper of Other People's Joy

"Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand" (II Corinthians 1:24).

I Choose to Let My Father Know of My Joy

"Make a joyful noise unto the LORD ..."
(Psalms 100:1).

God hears many complaints, and much cursing of His name. I will let Him hear from a joyful heart.

Today I choose joy.

Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

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This weekly publication (52 times a year) is dedicated to:

- the proclamation of the riches of God's abundant, exceeding grace (Romans 5:20; 11:6; Ephesians 1:7)
- the affirmation of God's purpose to save all mankind through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (I Timothy 2:3, 4; 4:10; Titus 2:11)
- the "preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began" (Romans 16:25)
- true freedom and liberty apart from the law (Galatians 5:1)
- the organic nature of the church, the body of Christ (I Corinthians 12)
- the distinct ministry of Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles (Romans 11:13)
- the importance of receiving all whom Christ has received (Romans 14-15)
- the recovery of rich Biblical truth that has too long remained hidden under the veils of traditionalism, prejudice, misunderstanding, and fear (Mark 7:7, 13).
- the completeness of the believer in Christ (Colossians 2:10), with ...
 - total forgiveness of sins (Colossians 1:14)
 - identity in His death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6)
 - adult sonship position (Galatians 4)

This publication is a joint effort of a few members of the body of Christ. It is a product of our individual lives and ministries together. We do not claim infallibility for its contents. Our readers are asked to be as the Bereans and search the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-11; I Thessalonians 5:21).

This publication is not connected with any "church," "denomination," "movement," "organization," "mission," "creed," "meeting," "school," "conference" or "fellowship."

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Remember that it is our responsibility as husbands and fathers to take the truths we learn from God's Word, the truths that we hold dear, and impart them to our families.

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(recompiled and edited)

I CHOOSE ... MEEKNESS

I choose to reject pride. I am what I am, only by God's grace.

"But by the grace of God I am what I am: and His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain ..." (I Corinthians 15:10a).

"That no flesh should glory in His presence ... He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord" (I Corinthians 1:29, 31).

I Choose the Spirit of Meekness

"The spirit of meekness" (I Corinthians 4:21; Galatians 6:1).

"The fruit of the Spirit is ... meekness ..." (Galatians 5:22-23).

"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved ... humbleness of mind, meekness ..." (Colossians 3:12).

I Choose to Follow After Meekness

"Follow after ... meekness" (I Timothy 6:11).

I Choose to Walk Worthy of My Vocation Today

"... Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness ..." (Ephesians 4:1-2).

I Choose to Share My Understanding in Meekness

"In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves ..." (II Timothy 2:25).

I Choose Meekness with All

"... Showing all meekness unto all men" (Titus 3:2).

Today I choose meekness.

I CHOOSE ... IDENTITY

I choose to be myself today. I will live as who God has made me.

I Choose to Be Who I Am "In Christ"

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (II Corinthians 5:17).

"For in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in Him ..." (Colossians 2:9-10).

I choose not to live as a son of Adam. I choose to live this day as a son of God.

I choose to be what He has made me – rejecting all other identities. I choose to be the unique expression of His life.

I will not be the shell of a person, pushed into a mold of Adamic conformity. I will be the real me that God has uniquely designed me to be.

I will not be bullied out of the divinely designed identity that my Father has given me.

I Choose My True Identity – in His Death, Burial and Resurrection

"... Our old man is crucified with Him ..." (Romans 6:6).

"Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4).

"Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him" (Romans 6:8).

"Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together

...” (Ephesians 2:5-6).

“Buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised Him from the dead” (Colossians 2:12).

“... We should live together with Him” (I Thessalonians 5:10).

I Choose My Identity – In His Suffering

“And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together” (Romans 8:17).

“If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him ...” (II Timothy 2:12).

I Choose My Identity with Him in the Heavenly Places

“Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:5-6).

I Choose His Identity Living in Me

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, Who loved me, and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).

My former identity – my old “I” – was my identity as the son of Adam. My new identity – my new “I” – is my identity as the glorious son of God.

My old “I” is that of molded conformity – of human uniformity. As a son of Adam I was from birth ever pressed into the cast of sameness.

My new “I” is that of unique design – of divine distinctiveness. As a son of God I am now free to be that one-of-a-kind individual that God has

created me to be – filled and made vibrant with His dynamic life living in and through me.

“I [a son of Adam] am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I [a son of God] live; yet not I [the “I” of the old creation], but Christ liveth in me [the me of the new creation]: and the life [the divine life of God] which I [the unique person that God has made me to be] now live in the flesh [right now, this very day] I live by the faith of the Son of God, Who loved me, and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).

Today I choose identity.

I CHOOSE ... FAITH

I choose to believe God over everyone and everything else – over experiences, circumstances, feelings, family, friends, society, etc.

Many will challenge what God has told me; but their enticing words will not do! I choose His view over theirs!

I Choose to Take God at His Word

“... I trust in Thy word” (Psalms 119:42).

I will believe God no matter what comes my way today. I will trust Him and what He has said over everything else – over my training, my intellect, my situation, my thoughts and my emotions. Though all of my very being will cry out to the contrary, I will believe God today.

I Choose to Please God by Faith

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him ...” (Hebrews 11:6a).

Faith pleases my Father. I want to please Him today.

I Choose to Glorify God by Faith

Like Abraham, I will be strong in faith, and that

faith will bring glory to God.

“[Abraham] staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God” (Romans 4:20).

I Choose to Hear His Words

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17).

I will allow faith entrance into my heart by hearing the words of my Father. I will not just read them; I will have an “ear” to “hear” what He has to say!

“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith ...” (Revelation 2:7a).

I will not be distracted by the circumstantial details of my life and miss what is truly important. I will truly “hear” the words of God!

Today I choose faith.

I CHOOSE ... CONTENTMENT

I choose to be content regardless of the circumstances of life today. I may not like every situation that I face today. They will undoubtedly not all be to my liking, but I will walk with my Father, satisfied and happy.

I Choose to Be Content Whatever My State

“Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content” (Philippians 4:11).

Today I will be tempted to think, “If only ...” –

“If only I had ...”

“If only I could ...”

“If only things were better.”

“If only things were different.”

As I start this day I will remember that contentment is never the result of multiplying my riches, increasing my possessions, or gaining fame, prestige or popularity. In fact, I know that these may even incite my discontent, for after having obtained them, they will not in themselves bring me any lasting satisfaction. None of these are what is of real and lasting value for me.

“... Beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth” (Luke 12:15).

I Choose to Be Content with Food and Raiment

“But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content” (I Timothy 6:6-8).

I know that contentment does not depend upon things on the outside, but results from conditions on the inside, and all is well there!

“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Hebrews 13:5).

Today I choose contentment.

I CHOOSE ... PEACE

There is much tension, discord, contention, strife, conflict, and turmoil in the world. This is the nature of the world apart from God; but I choose to walk outside of the endless and senseless conflict. I will not be a part of it today. I choose to walk in peace, for this is my divine calling.

“... God hath called us to peace” (I Corinthians 7:15).

I Have “Peace with God”

Though the entire world around me may be in

friction, debate, agitation, and commotion, I will live in peace. The foundation of my peace this day is my secure and unchanging relationship with my Father. Because of my Savior, there is absolutely nothing between my Father and me. He has made me at peace with Him through the blood of His cross. No matter what my feelings are, I have as my ever present possession – “*peace with God.*”

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1).

I Choose “the Peace of God”

Not only do I have “*peace with God*” – there is no conflict between us, but I also choose “*the peace of God*” – His very own attribute of peace now abides in my heart.

“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:7).

“Now the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always by all means” (II Thessalonians 3:16).

“For He is our peace ...” (Ephesians 2:14).

My Father is “the God of Peace”

After all, my Father is the real source of peace; He is its only basis – its author.

“... The God of peace ...” (Romans 15:33).

He Who Lives in Me, Whose Life I Now Live, Is “the Prince of Peace”

“... The Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

I Choose to Be at Peace with the Brethren

I choose “*the bond of peace*” with fellow-members of Christ’s Body, no matter where they are in their daily walk.

“Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:3).

“... Be at peace among yourselves” (I Thessalonians 5:13).

I Choose to Be at Peace with the World

I choose, as much as in me is, to “*live peaceably*” with all men – and there is much in me!

“Christ liveth in me!” (Galatians 2:20).

“If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men” (Romans 12:18).

I Choose to Be at Peace with Myself

Since I have been “*made the righteousness of God*” (II Corinthians 5:21), and there is no condemnation upon me (Romans 8:1), I choose to rest in my completeness in Him (Colossians 2:10). I will not live in guilt.

I will live in the peace that I am “*His workmanship*” (Ephesians 2:10) and that “*He which hath begun a good work*” in me “*will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ*” (Philippians 1:6).

I Choose to Live in the Kingdom of God

I am not of this world; I am an outsider to it. I am a citizen and heir of the Kingdom of God. His kingdom is one of peace. Regardless of what happens around me, I will live nobly in my domain today.

“For the kingdom of God is ... peace” (Romans 14:17).

I Choose to Walk “Spiritually Minded” in the Fruit of His Spirit

“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace” (Romans 8:6).

“The fruit of the Spirit is ... peace” (Galatians 5:22).

I Choose for Peace to Be the Moment-by-Moment Course of My Life

“... Follow ... peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart” (II Timothy 2:22).

“... That we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty” (II Timothy 2:2).

I Choose to Live this Day in His Peace Allowing It to Rule in My Heart

“... Live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you” (II Corinthians 13:11).

“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts ...” (Colossians 3:15).

I Will Keep My Mind on the Lord

“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee” (Isaiah 26:3).

Keeping my mind on the Lord will allow me to trust Him in every situation that I face, and trusting Him in every situation will allow me to have perfect peace. I will avail myself of His perfect peace.

Today I choose peace.

I CHOOSE ... FREEDOM

I choose to be free – to stand fast in my Father’s liberty. I choose *not* to be brought under bondage.

The Son of God Has Made Me Free

“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed” (John 8:36).

God’s Spirit, Resident in Me, Has Made Me Free

“Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where

the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty” (II Corinthians 3:17).

The Truth Has Made Me Free

“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32).

I Choose to Live in My Freedom from the Bondage of Sin

“Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness” (Romans 6:18).

“But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness ...” (Romans 6:22).

I Choose to Live in My Freedom from the Bondage of the Law

“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death” (Romans 8:2).

I Choose to Live in My Freedom from the Bondage of Wrath

“Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him” (Romans 5:9).

I Choose to Live in My Freedom from the Bondage of Condemnation and Guilt

“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus ...” (Romans 8:1a).

“Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, Who is even at the right hand of God, Who also maketh intercession for us” (Romans 8:33-34).

I will live in this grand truth today. What shall I say

to these things? If God be for me, who or what can be against me? God is for me!

I Choose to Live in My Freedom from the Bondage of Religion

"Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, (Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? Which things have indeed a show of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh" (Colossians 2:20-23).

I Choose to Live in My Freedom from the Bondage of Tradition

I will not be bound by man's traditions.

"Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition ..." (Mark 7:13).

"But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Matthew 15:9).

I Choose to Live in My Freedom from the Bondage of Fear

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (II Timothy 1:7).

I Choose to Live in My Freedom from the Bondage of the Opinions of Others

"But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment" (I Corinthians 4:3).

I Choose the Freedom of Faith

I choose the freedom to exercise personal faith before God – without the constraint of others – without manipulation.

"Hast thou faith? Have it to thyself before God ..." (Romans 14:22).

I Choose NOT to Live in Bondage

Freedom is my birthright!

"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father" (Romans 8:15).

I Choose to Live in My Freeman Status

Today I am free to live, to serve, to love, to be who and all that I am in Christ! I refuse to give up my freeman status!

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage" (Galatians 5:1).

Today I choose freedom.

(to be continued)

Your Part

Now that you have read this issue of the Bible Student's Notebook™, it's your turn.

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