



Bible Student's NotebookTM

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume IV
Issue 87

I Choose!

Living Life to Its Fullest

Part III

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

I CHOOSE ... THANKFULNESS

God is so good to me. I have been blessed “*with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ*” (Ephesians 1:3).

I Choose Not to Murmur

Whatever my lot today, I will not murmur, complain, or whine. I will not be ungrateful. I will be thankful.

“*Do all things without murmurings ...*”
(Philippians 2:14).

I Choose This as a Day of Thanksgiving

I choose to make this and everyday a day of thanksgiving. I refuse to limit it to one day a year. This is a special day.

“*O give thanks unto the LORD, for He is good: for His mercy endureth for ever*”
(Psalms 107:1).

“*That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all Thy wondrous works*” (Psalms 26:7).

I Choose to Be Thankful in All Things

Thanksgiving is God's will for my life today!

“*In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you*” (I Thessalonians 5:18).

I Choose to Be Thankful for All Things

I choose not only to be thankful *IN* all things, but I choose also to be thankful *FOR* all things.

“*Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (Ephesians 5:20).

The rain is as important as the sunshine. Tears are as needed as laughter. Dark colors are as valuable in the tapestry as are the light.

I will trust my Father implicitly in all things. He is a good God and worthy of my confidence and dependence. He is the potter and I am His clay.

“*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose*”
(Romans 8:28).

Today I choose thankfulness.

I Choose ... Grace

As I awaken to another day, I am reminded that I have been made the object of divine grace. God

(continued next page)

does not treat me as I deserve, or *even* better than I deserve. He treats me without the slightest reference to what I deserve. All unworthiness on my part has been forever banished. It is only the worthiness of the Son that God now sees. He treats me with the divine favor with which He treats His Son.

I Choose the Grace of God

I choose to live in His grace today. And why wouldn't I? After all ...

I have received the abundant riches of God's grace (Romans 5:17; II Corinthians 9:8; Ephesians 1:7).

I am saved by grace (Ephesians 2:5; II Timothy 1:9).

I have been declared righteous (justified) freely by His grace (Romans 3:24; Titus 3:7).

I have been called into grace – it is my calling (Galatians 1:6).

I live in God's dispensation of grace (Ephesians 3:2).

I am what I am by God's grace (I Corinthians 15:10).

In the ages to come, He will show the exceeding riches of His grace toward me (Ephesians 2:7).

I Choose the Inexhaustible Grace of God

God's marvelous grace is without measure to me. His grace will never be out done. It will never be exceed in measure, not even by my sin!

"Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound" (Romans 5:20).

I Choose Not to Oppose God's Work of Grace

God is working grace in and through me. I will

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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)

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(recompiled and edited)

not oppose His work today. I oppose God's grace by seeking to walk and live under the principle of law. I refuse to do so in my life. I will not do so in the lives of others either. Therefore:

I will not to frustrate God's grace.

"I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain" (Galatians 2:21).

I will not possess it in vain.

"We then, as workers together with Him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain" (II Corinthians 6:1).

I will not be moved from it.

"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel" (Galatians 1:6).

I will not fall from it.

"Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace" (Galatians 5:4).

I will not fall from grace by turning to the law.

Instead ...

I Choose to Stand in Grace

I will not be moved from grace. I will stand firm and strong.

"By Whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand ..." (Romans 5:2).

I Choose to Live in Grace's Dominion

"For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace" (Romans 6:14).

God has placed me "under" grace. To be under something, is for it to have "dominion over you."

Sin and the law do not have dominion over me. Grace is the rule of my life. It has the dominion over me.

I Choose Grace as My Wealth

I have been made rich by His grace. Whatever earthly treasures I may or may not possess, I have the lasting riches of God's grace. This is my true wealth!

"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich" (II Corinthians 8:9).

I Will Reign in Grace Today

"That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 5:21).

I Choose to Live in the Sufficiency of My Father's Grace

It matters not what unknown circumstances or situations I may face today. His powerful grace is always sufficient for me.

"And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me" (II Corinthians 12:9).

I Choose to Praise the Glory of His Grace

"To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the Beloved" (Ephesians 1:6).

I Choose to Sing with Grace in My Heart

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Colossians 3:16).

I Choose to Minister Grace

I will cooperate with God's work of grace in the lives of others. I will minister grace to those that I come in contact with.

"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers" (Ephesians 4:29).

"Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man" (Colossians 4:6).

I will remember that it is not so much important what I say, as how I say it – it does not say, "what ye ought to answer every man," but "how ye ought to answer every man" – with grace!

I Choose Grace as My Teacher

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us ..." (Titus 2:11-12).

I choose to learn how to live this day from God – His grace as my teacher! I will deal with myself in grace. I will deal with others – even my enemies – in grace.

Today I choose grace.

I Choose ... Hope

Hope is the confident expectation of the complete fulfillment of what God has promised. God will do all that He has said He will do. His promises are steadfast and sure. He never will fail in bringing even one of His promises to fruition.

I am God's creation of hope; He has so subjected me.

"For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of Him Who hath subjected the same in hope" (Romans 8:20).

The Lord Jesus Christ Himself is "*my hope*" (I

Timothy 1:1), and my "*hope of glory*" (Colossians 1:27). I have "*good hope through grace*" (II Thessalonians 2:16), for hope is laid up for me in heaven (Colossians 1:5).

How can I live in discouragement, or despair? Others may live without hope; but I am not like others: I have the God and Creator of all things as my Father. This day is full of hope because Him. I will live in confident expectation.

I Choose to Rejoice in Hope

"... Rejoice in hope of the glory of God" (Romans 5:2).

"Rejoicing in hope ..." (Romans 12:12).

I will rejoice in the hope of what God has promised will come.

I Choose to be Filled and Abound in Hope

"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost" (Romans 15:13).

My fulfillment and abundance will be in my Father's faithful promises of that which is to come.

I Choose Hope in All Things

"Charity ... hopeth all things ..." (I Corinthians 13:7).

No matter what my day holds for me, in all things I will by love have complete confidence and full expectation in God. He is my hope.

Today I choose hope.

I Choose ... Enjoyment

"... Trust in ... the living God, Who giveth us richly all things to enjoy" (I Timothy 6:17).

I Choose to Live Life to Its Fullest

Time is so fleeting, and my time here on earth is

short at best. I choose to enjoy the life that God has given me. My Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ came that I might live my life in fullness.

"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly"
(John 10:10).

I Choose to Enjoy My Father's Handiwork

I awaken this morning and bask in the goodness and grace of my wonderful Father – *"the blessed [happy] God"* (I Timothy 1:11) – Who loves me and lives in me!

God has given me the grand gift of appreciating His marvelous creation – He has given me *"richly all things to enjoy."* I will not miss the wealth of His life and design all around me. He has so graciously added fullness to my life, in ways that only He can. Truly, *"every good gift and every perfect gift is from above"* (James 1:17).

I will enjoy the amazing variety of food, flowers, trees, and animals – all splendid designs of His hands. I am uniquely created with very distinct appreciations for particular expressions of His handiwork. Because I know God, I can choose to live in the enjoyment of the simplest of His provisions – all in worship of Him.

My Father is good and gracious, desiring that I *richly* enjoy His wonderful creation! With this understanding, I take pleasure in my favorite aspects of His diverse creative bounty.

All about me is a rich expanse of beauty and wonder. To the natural man it all seems but vanity (Ecclesiastes 1:2). Yet I, living in the very life of God, am able to enjoy all that He has so richly given to me.

I will enjoy my family and friends. What is more precious to me in this life than my loved ones? I will tell them that I love them today. Even more importantly, I will show them that I love them. I will take the time to appreciate and enjoy them. I will soak up my time with them, for tomorrow they may be gone.

I will live today in the pleasure of God's handiwork. I choose to consciously take the time to delight in it. If I do not take such time today, when will I?

Today I choose enjoyment.

I Choose ... Encouragement

I will be encouraged this day. To be discouraged is unbelief, of who God has made me, and of His purpose and ability in my life.

I Choose Encouragement

I am God's creation (II Corinthians 5:17), I am His workmanship (Ephesians 2:10), I am His vessel (II Corinthians 4:7). He is the potter, I am His clay. I will be encouraged that He is the Lord of my life, and that He knows exactly what He is doing.

"Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ"
(Philippians 1:6).

"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?"
(Romans 8:31).

I Choose to Encourage Myself

Today the circumstances of my life may indeed tempt me to be discouraged, but if necessary I – like David of old – will encourage myself.

"And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him ... but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God"
(I Samuel 30:6).

I Choose to Encourage Others

This world can be a hard place to live. It can be filled with heartache, sorrow, defeat, and setback. Those around me are in real need of encouragement too. I will seek to be a channel of divine encouragement to them – to be genuine helpers of their 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).

Today I choose encouragement.

I Choose ... Fruitfulness

Today I will be reminded of the fruit that I possess
– His fruit in me.

I Choose Fruitfulness

The activities of today are not about me, but the Lord Jesus Christ living out His life uniquely through me. It is not about what I accomplish, but about His accomplishments in me – moment by moment. It is all about HIS fruit produced through me. I am but His vessel.

I Choose His Fruit

Fruit is the spontaneous expression my oneness with Christ.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law” (Galatians 5:22-23).

This fruit is His Spirit producing spiritual life through me. It need not be contrived, manufactured, or imitated. It is not artificial; it is the natural, living by-product of His life. It operates completely apart from any human effort on my part – separate from any “ought to” and “should do” – distinct for the requirements of any list of dos and don’ts – completely outside of any works of the law – “... *against such there is no law.*”

I Choose to Be Filled with His Fruit

I know fully well when I am operating in my old life – my former self – my empty existence that was apart from Him. I now choose to let Him have His way with me, allowing His fruit to have full production in me. He is my life; I will simply look to, and live in Him.

“Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory

and praise of God” (Philippians 1:11).

I Choose Fruit unto Him

His fruit in me is not mine. Ultimately it is not for my use or personal pleasure. This fruit is His fruit. It is for His own purpose, use, and pleasure. It is unto Him.

“... That we should bring forth fruit unto God” (Romans 7:4).

I Choose Fruit for His Enjoyment

I choose to allow Him the enjoyment of His own fruit in my life today.

“That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God” (Colossians 1:10).

Today I choose fruitfulness.

I Choose ... Purpose

While many will live this day aimlessly, I choose to live mine with purpose. As a son of God, my life has real meaning.

I Choose Purpose

*“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your **reasonable service**” (Romans 12:1).*

I choose thoughtful service to God. I will live today in “reasonable service.” While others may live mindlessly, without direction, I embrace the day with purpose and intent, with an aim and a goal.

“... Reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:13-14).

I Choose the Purpose of My Father

My Father is a God of great purpose.

“... Called according to His purpose”
(Romans 8:28).

“... That the purpose of God according to election might stand ...” (Romans 9:11).

“... *The purpose of Him Who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will*”
(Ephesians 1:11).

“... *The eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord*” (Ephesians 3:11).

“... According to His own purpose and grace ...” (II Timothy 1:9).

Since my Father has purpose, I as His son choose to have purpose too – His purpose. And as Joshua of old, I choose to serve the Lord *this* day.

“... Choose you this day whom ye will serve ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” (Joshua 24:15).

I Choose to Cleave Unto the Lord

“Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord” (Acts 11:23).

As this day unfolds I choose “with purpose of

heart” to “*cleave unto the Lord*” – I will not be moved from my position in Him. I will “*stand fast in the faith*” and be strong (I Corinthians 16:13) – I will “*stand fast in the Lord*” (Philippians 4:1; I Thessalonians 3:8). I will live the divine life that He has given me without vanity.

I Choose to Purposefully Live the Details of My Life for His Glory

Much of what I will do today may seem mundane and uneventful. But I will remember that this is where my Father lives out His life – in the commonplace.

“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).

All of life is covered by these words. I will live in awe of the ordinary; for divine life is manifest there. Even the simplest of my daily tasks become filled with heavenly purpose when mindfully done unto Him – making them extra-ordinary.

Life is too short to miss the purpose of divine life living in me.

Today I choose purpose.

(to be continued)

Law and the Gospel

The Law and the Gospel are two keys. The Law is the key that shuts up all men under condemnation, and the

Gospel is the key which opens the door and lets them out.

William Tyndale (c. 1494-1536)



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