



# Bible Student's Notebook™

## *The Herald of His Grace*

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

Volume IV  
Issue 91

## *I Choose!*

### Living Life to Its Fullest

### Part VII

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

#### **I CHOOSE ... CONFIDENCE**

I will live this day full of confidence. My Father has given it to me.

#### **My Full Confidence Is in the Lord**

I am not self-confident. I am God-confident.

I don't have confidence in myself – in my own abilities or strengths. I know my only real power and capability lies in Him alone.

*"... We ... worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh" (Philippians 3:3).*

My confidence is completely in Him.

*"... O God of our salvation; Who art the confidence of all the ends of the earth ..."* (Psalms 65:5).

#### **I Have Confidence that I Am His Workmanship**

I know God has made me who I am.

*"But by the grace of God I am what I am ..."* (I Corinthians 15:10).

I am His workmanship.

*"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus ..."* (Ephesians 2:10).

I am His new creation.

*"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).*

#### **I Have Confidence that He Will Continue His Work in Me**

He began His work in me, and He will see it all the way through to the end.

*"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).*

#### **I Have Confidence that Nothing Can or Will Separate Me from the Love of My Father**

*"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39).*

#### **I Have Confidence in His Absolute Ability**

*"... I know Whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day" (II Timothy 1:12).*

I do not keep myself. He is my keeper.

(continued on page 935)



# Letters to the Editor

"I do not have the words to express to you my full thoughts, but please know how much I love you, and your family, and how much I appreciate your fellowship in the truth of Christ's Love, Grace and Liberty." – **VA**

"Being not a member of the so called 'church' God is opening my eyes to lots of teachings I have heard over the years. I have changed my way of thinking. Thanks to your sharing via the **BSN** and your articles. You are not afraid to do so. Praise God. I just love you and yours." – **FL**

"Thank you for the **BSN** ... While we may not agree with all your changing viewpoints (i.e. universal reconciliation), we do agree that "*Blessed is he that readeth*" [Revelation 1:3] ..." – **NC**

"I have so appreciated and enjoyed the thought, study, and heart behind this publication and all the contributors to it. The articles, issue after issue, have challenged and encouraged me to go back to the Scriptures, listen well to the text, and engage in conversation with others over my new thoughts and discoveries. Clyde, I have appreciated your humbleness toward the Scriptures and other believers. Thank you so much for continuing in this labor of love on behalf of all those who receive the **Notebook**." – **WA**

## Responses from Past Issues of the **BSN**

"I have been so blessed by **BSN** #52 through #62 and the truths that come from them. I have learned so much by reading them and God's word. Thank you." – **WI**

"A friend of mine shared with me **BSN** #34. The article, *Racing Through the Bible*, was refreshing and encouraging. This is a really big issue in some Christian circles." – **NC**

## Responses from Our "I Choose" Series

"I've really been enjoying your 'I Choose' series. I so often forget that a great deal of my life has to do with what I choose, or what I choose to do with it. This last one about choosing rest, is really starting to hit home, as I'm fretting about various things that really is not going to matter to me 100 years from now. (I like to think of what will really matter to me 100 years from now)." – **VA**

"Through the years, God taught me (and still is) the power of His words in II Corinthians 10:4, 5; and Romans 12:2; and Philippians 4:6-9. All of these being linked to each other. This is the first time I've seen any article written doing the same." – **NJ**

## **Bible Student's Notebook™**

*Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal*

ISSN: 1936-9360

Volume IV, No. 91 – February 8, 2007

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 Have Confidence in the Faith of the Son of God**

*“In Whom we have boldness and access with confidence by **the faith of Him**” (Ephesians 3:12).*

I will remember that it is not my faith in Him that is the ultimate issue; it is His faith – *“the faith of Him”* – and His faith gives me boldness and access before my Father.

Therefore, my confidence is not in my faith but in the *“faith of Jesus Christ.”*

*“Even the righteousness of God which is by **faith of Jesus Christ** ...” (Romans 3:22).*

*“Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by **the faith of Jesus Christ** ... that we might be justified by **the faith of Christ**” (Galatians 2:16).*

*“But the Scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by **faith of Jesus Christ** might be given to them that believe” (Galatians 3:22).*

*“And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through **the faith of Christ**, the righteousness which is of God by faith” (Philippians 3:9).*

In fact, even if my personal faith is weak or even nonexistent at times, it is His own faithfulness that will ever abide.

*“If we believe not, yet He abideth faithful: He cannot deny Himself” (II Timothy 2:13).*

This is why His foundation stands sure.

*“Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are His ...” (II Timothy 2:19).*

His hope is the very anchor of my soul.

*“Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast ...” (Hebrews 6:19).*

Like Abraham of old, I will be fully persuaded that my

Father will perform all His promises.

*“He [Abraham] staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness” (Romans 4:20-22).*

## **I Choose Not to Place My Confidence in Others**

*“It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man” (Psalms 118:8).*

Having confidence in others will let me down. Confidence in my Father will never let me down.

## **I Choose Total Confidence in My Father**

I will be confident of His work in my life – that He knows exactly what He is doing. I will be confident of who God has made me and of His purpose and ability in my life.

*“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).*

I need not live in uncertainty. I need not be unsure of my life and relationship with God. It is truly all about Him, Who is the ever steadfast and sure One.

**Today I choose confidence.**

## **I CHOOSE ... STRENGTH**

I will be strong in the Lord today, come what may. He alone is the source of my strength.

## **The Lord is Strong**

*“Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty ...” (Psalm 24:8).*

*“Their Redeemer is strong; the LORD of hosts is His name ...” (Jeremiah 50:34).*

*“... He is strong in power ...” (Isaiah 40:26).*

None is stronger than my Father. After all, He is “the

Almighty God!"

71:3).

### **The Lord Is My Strength**

*"The LORD God is my strength ..." (Habakkuk 3:19).*

*"The LORD is the strength of my life ..." (Psalm 27:1).*

*"The LORD is my strength ..." (Exodus 15:2).*

*"The LORD is my strength ..." (Psalm 118:14).*

*"The LORD is my strength ..." (Psalm 28:7).*

*"The LORD my strength ..." (Psalm 144:1).*

*"O LORD, my strength ..." (Psalm 19:14).*

*"O LORD, my strength ..." (Jeremiah 16:19).*

*"God is my strength ..." (II Samuel 22:33).*

*"God is our ... strength ..." (Psalm 46:1).*

*"I will love thee, O LORD, my strength" (Psalm 18:1).*

### **He Is My Strong Rock**

*"... Be thou my strong rock" (Psalm 31:2).*

*"The LORD is my rock ..." (Psalm 18:2).*

*"... Thou art my rock ..." (Psalm 71:3).*

### **He Is My Strong Tower**

*"For thou hast been a ... strong tower ..." (Psalm 61:3).*

### **He Is My Strong Fortress**

*"... Thou art my... fortress" (Psalm 71:3).*

*"O LORD, my strength, and my fortress ..." (Jeremiah 16:19).*

### **He Is My Strong Habitation**

*"Be Thou my strong habitation ..." (Psalm*

### **He Is My Strong Refuge**

*"... Thou art my strong refuge" (Psalm 71:7).*

*"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).*

*"O LORD, my strength ... and my refuge ..." (Jeremiah 16:19).*

### **He Is My Strong Hold**

*"The LORD is ... a strong hold ..." (Nahum 1:7).*

### **He Is My Strong Shield**

*"The LORD is my strength and my shield ..." (Psalm 28:7).*

### **He Is the Strength of My Heart**

*"... God is the strength of my heart ..." (Psalm 73:26).*

### **His Strength Gives Me a Song**

*"The LORD is my strength and song ..." (Exodus 15:2).*

*"The LORD is my strength and song ..." (Psalm 118:14).*

### **His Strength Completes My Way**

*"God is my strength and power: and He maketh my way perfect [complete] ..." (II Samuel 22:33).*

### **His Own Strength Works Mightily in Me**

*"Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness" (Colossians 1:11).*

*"... The word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe" (I Thessalonians 2:13).*

*“... The exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power” (Ephesians 1:19).*

### **I Choose to Be Strong in the Lord**

*“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might” (Ephesians 6:10).*

### **I Choose to Be Made Strong by His Word**

*“... Strengthen Thou me according unto Thy word” (Psalm 119:28).*

### **I Choose to Be Strong in Faith**

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

Like Abraham of old I will be strong in faith. It is *not* that Abraham had strong faith, but that he found his strength in faith – he *“was strong in faith.”* I too will find my strength in faith.

### **I Choose to Be Strong in Grace**

*“Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus” (II Timothy 2:1).*

I will find my strength in His grace.

### **I Choose to Allow My Father to Strengthen My Heart**

*“Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD” (Psalm 27:14).*

*“Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD” (Psalm 31:24).*

### **I Choose the Joy of the Lord as My Strength**

*“... For the joy of the LORD is your strength” (Nehemiah 8:10).*

### **I Choose Strength in My Inner Man**

*“That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with*

*might by His Spirit in the inner man” (Ephesians 3:16).*

### **God’s Strength Is Perfected in My Weakness**

*“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. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong” (II Corinthians 12:9-10).*

*“... Out of weakness were made strong ...” (Hebrews 11:34).*

Though I am weak, He is strong.

I cannot see the future. I do not know what lies around the corner for me, but my Father does. Regardless of how this day unfolds, His strength will be sufficient for my needs.

*“... As thy days, so shall thy strength be” (Deuteronomy 33:25).*

*“I can do all things through Christ Which strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:13).*

Whatever my lot today, however weak I may be, I will trust in His steadfast strength.

I may face hardness, difficulty, and inability, but I will live in total dependence upon Him. I can do all things through His divine strength living out its fullness in me.

### **Today I choose strength.**

### **I CHOOSE ... VICTORY**

Victory is the way of life God has given to me. It is part of the core of who I am as His son. I do not need to live in defeat and discouragement today. I wake up this morning to the bright truth of what He has given me.

### **I Have Been Given Victory**

Victory is God’s gift to me. It belongs to me. My Father has given it to me.

*“... Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (I Corinthians 15:57).*

It was His dear Son that eternally secured it for me – “*through our Lord Jesus Christ.*” He did so through His triumphant cross-work.

*“Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, **nailing it to His cross**; and having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a show of them openly, **triumphing** over them in it” (Colossians 2:14-15).*

### **He Always Causes Me to Triumph**

*“Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ ...” (II Corinthians 2:14).*

### **I Have Been Made More than a Conqueror**

*“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us” (Romans 8:37).*

### **I Choose to Believe God Concerning My Victory**

I will believe God over everything else. Faith is my victory.

*“... This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith” (I John 5:4).*

Access into my victorious walk is found in faith. I will simply believe my Father today. I will trust Him and what He has told me. I will live by His account of the way things really are. I will accept His viewpoint over any opposing one that I will encounter. What He has said is true, all else to the contrary is a lie.

### **I Choose to Live in Victory Regardless of My Circumstances**

This victory that my Father has given to me is in no way tied to the condition of my day – of what situations I may or may not face – of what lot I have in life. These are all but the scenery of my life. They need not have any control over me.

Though the circumstances of life may at times appear

bleak, I will remember that they are just that – only circumstances – they are not God. They in no way determine my true victory.

With God I can face any situation, regardless of how difficult or trying it may appear to be.

### **I Can Do**

The simple yet profound truth is that I can do all things through Christ.

*“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:13).*

My strength is not my own. My strength is His. He is my power. He is my capacity to face any of life’s challenges – to face whatever is thrown my way. He is my ability to “*do all things.*”

It was Paul who wrote these words. God made his life as our pattern (I Timothy 1:16). I will remember the context of his words, “*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*”

*“Not that I speak in respect of want [need]: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:11-13).*

I will also be mindful that Paul had such troublesome circumstances at times that it caused him to be “*pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life*” (II Corinthians 1:8). Yet in spite of these situations, he knew that he was truly victorious, always triumphant in Christ.

So it will be with me. That is why I choose to live in my victory – being more than a conqueror through Him. I will allow all that my Father has given me to have its full course in my life.

### **Today I choose victory.**

### **I CHOOSE ... ENLIGHTENMENT**

*“And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the*

**deep.** And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. **And God said, Let there be light: and there was light**" (Genesis 1:2-3).

### **I Choose the True Enlightenment that Can Come Only From My Father's Word**

This world is a dark place without the light and life of God. Men naturally walk in darkness. Their concepts and ideas are empty and vain. Only that which comes from God has real and lasting value. It is His life and viewpoint which bring true enlightenment to my heart and mind.

God has gloriously given me His rich Word to lighten my world. It alone is how I can find my way in the ever growing confusion and uncertainty of daily life.

*"The entrance of Thy words giveth light" (Psalm 119:130a).*

*"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).*

I will read it (I Timothy 4:13), study it (II Timothy 2:15), meditate on it (Psalm 119:148), trust it (Psalm 119:42), and by God's own life and grace, live it (Philippians 4:9).

I have the full confidence that my Father's Word will not be without profit. It will not return void. It will indeed be the great profit of my life!

*"So shall My word be that goeth forth out of My mouth: it shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it" (Isaiah 55:11).*

*"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is **profitable** ..." (II Timothy 3:16a).*

I will let His Word be the very source of my life.

*"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4b).*

Little wonder Job, though he had lost all earthly possessions, could say,

*"I have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary food" (Job 23:12).*

Feasting on His Word will transform my thinking, making it reflect His divine viewpoint in the fullness of His light and understanding.

*"For God, who commanded the **light** to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the **light** of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (II Corinthians 4:6).*

**Today I choose enlightenment.**

### **I CHOOSE ... FORGETTING**

*"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before" (Philippians 3:13).*

### **I Choose to Forget**

I will not be plagued by the sins, failures and heartaches of my past. I will not live in the past. I will live in the completeness of my divine forgiveness.

*"... Having forgiven you all trespasses" (Colossians 2:13).*

I will not revisit past mistakes. I will not succumb to the vicious and endless cycle of reliving the past. I leave former days in the past. They are over and finished. They are meant by God to stay where they are – in the past.

Like Paul the Apostle I will forget those things which are behind me.

*"... Forgetting those things which are behind" (Philippians 3:13a).*

Many of the days of my past may call for me to live in them with their regrets. Their voice is very familiar to me.

*"What if I hadn't ..."*

*"What if I had ...?"*

If I give myself over to these “what if’s” I will only be sure to waste and lose my life *now*.

I can’t make the sand of the hourglass flow upward. Every day before this one has passed beyond my reach and I should leave them there.

### **I Choose to Forget My Past**

“*Forgetting those things which are behind*” is a deliberate act. It is an act of faith before God; faith to walk with Him in the now, allowing Him to do His work in me today.

I will not miss the victories of today by wallowing in my past. I will let go of my past. I will not allow it to cripple me from enjoying the life that my Father has given me today.

### **I Choose to Follow My Father in Forgetting**

God’s forgiveness of my past includes His forgetting of it all.

*“... I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more”* (Jeremiah 31:34).

Now in Christ Jesus, I am without condemnation.

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

I will look confidently to the Lord for this new day.

*“... Reaching forth unto those things which are before”* (Philippians 3:13b).

### **Today I choose forgetting.**

## **I CHOOSE ... GENTLENESS**

In a world full of strife, force, harshness and abrasiveness I have the honor of living differently today.

### **I Choose Gentleness**

I choose to live in gentleness. I will not be rough, coarse, forceful or overbearing in my dealings with others. I will walk through the day with a calm, mild, tender spirit.

### **I Choose the Gentleness of Christ’s Life Living Through Me**

My Savior was the embodiment of gentleness. I am now a member of His body and He desires to live out His gentleness through me.

*“... The meekness and **gentleness of Christ** ...”* (II Corinthians 10:1).

*“... That the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body”* (II Corinthians 4:10).

*“... That the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh”* (II Corinthians 4:11)

### **I Choose the Spirit’s Fruit in My Life**

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

I will not grieve God’s spirit by being harsh. I will allow His fruit of gentleness to characterize my day.

### **I Choose to Follow Paul’s Example**

God revealed the life of His Son in Paul.

*“To reveal His Son in me ...”* (Galatians 1:16).

My Savior’s gentleness was manifest through him tenderly.

*“But we were **gentle among you**, even as a nurse cherisheth her children”* (I Thessalonians 2:7).

### **I Choose to Be Gentle to All Men**

I will not be selective in my gentleness. I will be gentle toward everyone.

*“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but **be gentle unto all men** ...”* (II Timothy 2:24).

*“To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but **gentle**, showing all meekness unto **all men**”* (Titus 3:2).

### **Today I choose gentleness.**



## I CHOOSE ... REFRESHMENT

The strain and burden of the circumstances of life can indeed make me very weary at times. I will take the necessary time needed to refresh myself. I will seek the refreshment of others also.

### I Choose Refreshment

I will not allow myself to be overcome with weariness. I will be sure to refresh myself today. I will do so physically as well as spiritually.

### I Choose the Pattern of My Father

God is the Creator of all things. At the end of His creation work-week, my Father rested.

*"... In six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day He rested, and was refreshed" (Exodus 31:17).*

He rested for an example to me, and although He has given me no holy days, such as Israel's Sabbath to observe today, nonetheless I will follow His model of rest and refreshment.

#### *Example of Each Day*

I will look at the example of the day He has designed. Each day begins with the sun coming up. The sun then works its way across the sky and fades into the horizon. Then darkness comes when it is much harder to work – a time designed by God at the end of each day for rest and refreshment.

#### *Example of the Sabbath*

God gave me the pattern of the Sabbath; a time given at the end of the week for rest and refreshment.

#### *Example of the Seasons*

Then He gave me a pattern in the seasons. There is spring, summer, and autumn ... seed time, growth, and harvest; then follows the shortened days of winter at year's end for rest and refreshment.

I will seek to find the time for the refreshment that my body and soul, mind and spirit needed at the end of each day, at the end of each week, at the end of each year. God has laid forth a guide for me in this respect.

My refreshment is His provision.

### I Choose the Pattern of the Son of God

My Lord Jesus Christ was not all "go." He had other gears. He did not burn both ends of the candle. He was an example of refreshment. I will remember this greatly overlooked verse:

*"And He said unto them, 'Come ye yourselves **apart into a desert place**, and **rest a while**': for there were many coming and going, and they had no **leisure** so much as to eat" (Mark 6:31).*

Here I find divinely sanctioned leisure.

Leisure, imagine that! Would I have ever thought that such a word was even in the Scriptures, let alone in reference to my Lord?

My Savior was deliberate about leisure for Himself and His disciples. I choose to follow the pattern of the Son of God and seek such refreshment for myself.

### I Choose the Mutual Refreshment of My Siblings

I have precious brothers and sisters in Christ with whom I can find mutual refreshment. Paul gives me an abundant testimony of the importance of such refreshment.

*"... And Julius courteously entreated Paul, and gave him liberty to go unto his friends **to refresh himself**" (Acts 27:3).*

*"That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may **with you be refreshed**" (Romans 15:32).*

*"I am glad of the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus ... for they have **refreshed my spirit** and yours ..." (I Corinthians 16:17-18).*

*"... His [Titus'] spirit was **refreshed by you all**" (II Corinthians 7:13).*

*"... Onesiphorus ... **oft refreshed me** ..." (II Timothy 1:16).*

*“For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are **refreshed by thee**, brother” (Philemon 1:7).*

*“Yea, brother, let me have joy of thee in the Lord: **refresh** my bowels in the Lord.” (Philemon 1:20).*

Like Paul I will seek refreshment from the Lord through His children. I will also seek to be a refreshment to them. This world is a tiresome and weary place. The strain and burden of life’s details can indeed make me and my siblings very weary.

I choose to take the valuable time needed to refresh myself and others. I will seek to be a blessed refreshment to weary pilgrims along my earthly journey.

**Today I choose refreshment.**

### **I CHOOSE ... SUFFICIENCY**

With all that lies before me today I am well aware of my personal insufficiency. With Paul I can ask,

*“... Who is sufficient for these things?” (II Corinthians 2:16).*

Like Paul I will have great confidence and expectation, looking to my Father in His all-sufficiency.

*“Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God” (II Corinthians 3:5).*

He is the One that I can count on. He is always faithful and dependable, and my “very present help” (Psalm 46:1).

### **I Choose Sufficiency**

God is my competence, my ability, my capacity, my capability. He is my total sufficiency.

*“... Our sufficiency **is** of God” (II Corinthians 3:5).*

### **I Choose the Sufficiency of God’s Grace in My Own Weakness**

*“And He said unto me, ‘My grace is sufficient for Thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness.’” (II Corinthians 12:9a).*

My personal weakness is no challenge for God. In fact it is in my weakness that His own strength is magnified and glorified in my life. His strength is perfected in my weakness.

### **I Choose Sufficiency in All Things**

*“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having **all sufficiency in all things**, may abound to every good work” (II Corinthians 9:8).*

By God’s abounding grace I have the sufficiency to thrive in His “good work” in my life today.

### **I Choose the Sufficiency that God Makes Available to Me for this Day**

*“Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil [trouble] thereof” (Matthew 6:34).*

The trouble of this day is no match for God’s sufficiency. His sufficiency through the Lord Jesus Christ more than matches my need. Even in trials and temptations, His ability is abundant.

*“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it” (I Corinthians 10:13).*

### **I Choose the Sufficiency of My Father’s Supply**

*“But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19).*

**Today I choose sufficiency.**

## I CHOOSE ... RECONCILIATION

I am in union with God today. What a wonderful thought to wake up to. Though I was once an enemy of God in my mind, I have now been brought into the fullness of divine favor.

*“And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath He reconciled”* (Colossians 1:21).

### I Choose Reconciliation

I will enjoy this day, living it in the place of divine favor that God has given to me through the finished cross-work of my Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. I will recognize the glorious truth that I have been reconciled to God and that nothing stands between Him and me.

### I Choose Reconciliation to God

The reason that I can have such joy and confidence in my oneness with God is that I did not reconcile myself to Him. Had I done so, it would fall upon me to keep it in place. Instead, it is my Father that has reconciled me to Himself. He did so without any effort or merit on my part, for He did the work of reconciliation while I was still His enemy. He reconciled me to Himself by the death of His Son.

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

### I Choose to Recognize that He Has Also Reconciled the World unto Himself

The far-reaching, triumphant cross-work of Jesus Christ was not limited to me. He was not partial in His work and accomplishments; He was all-inclusive. I will remember that Christ did His wonderful work not just for me, but for all those around me.

*“To wit, that God was in Christ, **reconciling the world unto Himself**, not imputing their trespasses unto them ...”* (II Corinthians

5:19).

*“And, having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him **to reconcile all things unto Himself**; by Him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven”* (Colossians 1:20).

I will see all men in their relationship to this all-inclusive reconciliation of God.

### I Choose the Ministry of Reconciliation

God having reconciled me unto Himself, He has given to me the ministry of reconciliation.

*“And all things are of God, Who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and **hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation**”* (II Corinthians 5:18).

God has given me a ministry. It is not one of condemnation, it is one of reconciliation. I am to carry out my “ministry of reconciliation” through the “word of reconciliation” which He has committed to me.

*“To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and **hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation**”* (II Corinthians 5:19).

Mine is not to be the word of condemnation, but His “word of reconciliation.” My ministry is simply to share with those around me of the Father’s love and acceptance of them through the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. I but entreat them “*in Christ’s stead, **Be ye reconciled to God***” (II Corinthians 5:20).

Mine is truly a good news that I share with others.

I will live in the spirit of reconciliation. I will allow it to permeate my heart and life. In the spirit of my Father, I will seek personal reconciliation between myself and others.

**Today I choose reconciliation.**

*(to be continued)*

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