



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume XI
Issue 262

I Am ... Who and What God Says I am

The Divine Reckoning of the Renewed Mind

Part 4

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

I AM ... PREDESTINED

For whom He did foreknow, He also did **predestinate** to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the First-Born among many brothers. Moreover, whom He did **predestinate**, them He also called: and whom He called, them He also justified: and whom He justified, them He also glorified (Romans 8:29-30).

Having **predestinated** us to the adoption of children to Himself by Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His will ... In Whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being **predestinated** according to the purpose of Him Who works all things after the counsel of His Own will (Ephesians 1:5, 11).

I am predestined. This is who and what Father says I am.

I am predestined “to be conformed to the image of His Son.” This is my destiny – predetermined. My destination has been pre-set, pre-fixed: I WILL be like Him.

*Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, **we shall be like Him** ... (I John 3:2).*



Just Who is the Lord Jesus Christ, into Whose image I will be made? He Himself is the “image of God.”

Christ, Who is the image of God (II Corinthians 4:4).

Who is the image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15).

Jesus Christ – God’s Son – is “the image of God.” I – a son of God – will be conformed to His image.

... As we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly (I Corinthians 15:49).

Who will change our lowly body, that it may be fashioned like to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself (Philippians 3:21).

Paul Billheimer has written wonderfully about this truth.

Created originally in the image of God, redeemed humanity has been elevated by means of a divinely conceived genetic process ... to the highest rank of all created beings ... This union goes beyond a mere formal, functional or ideal-

(see **I AM ...**, page 2439)

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 (1 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 law (Galatians 5:1);
- the organic nature of the church, the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (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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I AM ... (continued from page 2437)

istic harmony or rapport. It is an organic unity ... We become ... actual generated sons of God (I John 3:2), “partakers of the divine nature” (II Peter 1:4) ... generated by His Own life ...

Christ is the Prototype after which all other sons are being fashioned ... God’s purpose in the plan of redemption – to produce ... an entirely new and unique species, exact replicas of His Son with whom He will share His glory and His dominion, and who will constitute a royal progeny and form the governing and administrative staff of His eternal kingdom.

While we recognize the infinite distinction between the “Son” and the “many sons” born into the family, yet such is their heredity ... that He recognizes them as bona fide blood-brothers ...

Christ is the divine Prototype after which this new species is being made. They are to be exact copies of Him, true genotypes ... As sons of God, begotten by Him, incorporating into their fundamental being and nature the very genes of God, they rank above all other created beings and are elevated to the most sublime height possible – *Destined for the Throne*, First Edition, 1975, pp. 33-37

This is my predetermined destiny. I am who and what Father says I am.

I am predestined.

I AM ... REDEEMED

Being justified freely by His grace, through the redemption that is in Jesus Christ (Romans 3:24).

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, “Accursed is everyone who hangs on a tree” (Galatians 3:13).

I am redeemed. This is who and what Father says I am.

W.E. Vine defines redemption as:

To buy out, especially of purchasing a slave with

a view to his freedom. – Vine’s Expository Dictionary

Noah Webster defines it as:

Repurchase of captured goods or prisoners; the act of procuring the deliverance of persons or things from the possession and power of captors by the payment of an equivalent; ransom; release; as the redemption of prisoners taken in war ...

Deliverance from bondage, distress, or from liability to any evil or forfeiture, either by money, labor or other means. – *An American Dictionary of the English Language* (1828)

I have been bought out from the hands of the captor.

For you are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s (I Corinthians 6:20).

You are bought with a price; be not the servants of men (I Corinthians 7:23).

The Author of My Redemption Is God.

*But of Him are you in Christ Jesus, **Who from God** is made to us ... redemption (I Corinthians 1:30).*

*When the fullness of the time was come, **God sent forth His Son**, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem them who were under the law ... (Galatians 4:4-5).*

The Means of My Redemption Is the Lord Jesus Christ.

***In Whom** we have redemption through His blood, the freedom from sins, according to the riches of His grace (Ephesians 1:7).*

*But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth **His Son**, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem them who were under the law... (Galatians 4:4-5).*

*Being justified freely by His grace, through the redemption **that is in Jesus Christ** (Romans 3:24).*

The Price of My Redemption Is the Blood of Jesus Christ.

In Whom we have redemption **through His blood**, the freedom from sins, according to the riches of His grace (Ephesians 1:7).

In Whom we have redemption **through His blood**, even the freedom from sins (Colossians 1:14).

The Scope of My Redemption.

I have been redeemed from the “curse of the Law.”

For as many as are of the works of the law, are under the curse: for it is written, “Accursed is everyone who continues not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.” But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident: for, “The just shall live by faith.” And the law is not of faith: but, “The man who does them shall live by them.” Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, “Accursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.” (Galatians 3:10-13; c.f. Deuteronomy 6:25; 28:1-68).

I have been given “the freedom from sins.”

In Whom we have redemption through His blood, the freedom from sins, according to the riches of His grace (Ephesians 1:7).

In Whom we have redemption through His blood, even the freedom from sins (Colossians 1:14).

Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity ... (Titus 2:14).

One day the final stage of my redemption will be complete, as I will receive the redemption of my body.

And not only they, but ourselves also, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, [that is,] the redemption of our body (Romans 8:23).

I am who and what Father says I am.

I am redeemed.

I AM ... RIGHTEOUS

For He has made Him to be sin for us, Who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him (II Corinthians 5:21).

This is who and what Father says I am.

I am righteous.

Having been justified I am now RIGHT before God. I have been declared and constituted righteous before the just God of the Universe.

Etymology of Righteousness

Right – (root) noun – meaning: in accordance with justice.

ous – a suffix added to nouns to form adjectives – meaning: full of (examples: mountainous – full of mountains, envious – full of envy).

ness – a suffix added to adjectives to form nouns – meaning: state or condition (example: happiness – the state or condition of being happy, gracefulness – the state or condition of being graceful).

Thus justification is my state or condition being fully “right.”

The Definition of Righteousness

The character or quality of being right or just. – W.E. Vine, *Vine's Expository Dictionary*

Being what is just and right. – E.W. Bullinger, *Critical Lexicon*

I was void of any righteousness of my own. God made me righteous: He made me *His* righteousness. I was “MADE **the righteousness of God in Him** (II Corinthians 5:21).

I am His righteousness, because God says this is who and what I am.

... The righteousness of God, which is through Jesus Christ's faith, for all, and upon all them who believe ... To declare, I say, at this time His righteousness: that He may be just, and the Justifier of him who believes in Jesus (Romans 3:22-26).

And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through Christ's faith, the righteousness which is from God through faith (Philippians 3:9).

Other Scriptural Words Associated with My Righteousness Received from God

I am Sanctified:

... Sanctified in Christ Jesus (I Corinthians 1:2).

I am Holy and Blameless:

According as He has chosen us in Him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless before Him in love (Ephesians 1:4).

I am a Saint:

... beloved by God, called saints ... (Romans 1:7).

I am not, as so many Christians say, "just a sinner saved by grace." I am a saint, who has been made the very righteousness of God.

I am who and what Father says I am.

I am righteous.

I AM ... HIS TEMPLE

... **You are the temple of God**, and ... the Spirit of God dwells in you (I Corinthians 3:16).

... You also are built together for **a habitation of God** ... (Ephesians 2:22).

What tremendous statements!

I am the temple, the habitation of God.

This is who and what Father says I am.

God does not dwell in a building somewhere, but in me! This is something about which to get really excited!

There is an honorable movement in our country that builds homes for the underprivileged. It is called *Habitat for Humanity*; but there is a far greater housing project under way today! It began two millennia ago. It is *Habitat for Divinity*. God is actively building a house for His Own dwelling. A temple, not of bricks and mortar *made by hands*, but comprised of people.

God, Who made the world and all things therein, seeing that He is Lord of heaven and earth, **dwells not in temples made with hands** (Acts 17:24).

Don't you know that **you are the temple of God**, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? (I Corinthians 3:16).

What? Don't you know that your body is the **temple of the Holy Spirit** which is in you, which you have of God, and you are not your own? (I Corinthians 6:19).

For you are the **temple of the living God** (II Corinthians 6:16).

In Whom all the building properly framed together grows unto a holy temple in the Lord: in Whom also you are built together for **a habitation of God through the Spirit** (Ephesians 2:21-22).

I am the dwelling place of God! God has taken up residence in me. *Habitat for Divinity*: what a wonder; what amazing grace!

For many, their true identity as the *temple of God*, the *house of God*, has been stolen from them – years before they were ever born. Human organizations and institutions, along with their brick and mortar structures, have pawned themselves off as possessing the identity of the church, the Body of Christ.

The "Reformation" never did free the members of Christ's Body from this type of religious bond- ►

age and tyranny. Centuries later, in spite of all of the truth to which the Body of Christ has been exposed, it is still the common practice to surrender our true identity to the religious system:

“Where do you go to church?”

“Remember that this is the Lord’s House.”

“Welcome to the House of God.”

“Be reverent when entering the sanctuary.”

I have awoken to, and reclaimed my *true* identity. I live in the fullness of who and what I really am.

*One God and Father of all, Who is above all, and through all, **and in you all** (Ephesians 4:6).*

So, where is God? The God of the universe lives in me. I am His dwelling place on earth today, and I take Him with me *everywhere* I go, making every act of mine an act of worship. What a blessed privilege! If folks are going to meet God, they are going to meet Him *in me*.

Jim Palmer wonderfully brought this truth to focus for me when he wrote,

God is in our neighborhood because I carry His divine life within me. I put God ... in close proximity to others. With God in me, simply being present and available is “ministry.”...

I’ve come to see that the significance of my encounters with people is not pointing them to God as much as actually being an expression of God. The “Body of Christ” metaphor has grown in significance for me – that Christ continues His presence and ministry on earth in, through and as us ...

God is not somewhere up in the sky; He’s living His life in and through us, the Body of Christ, in the *neighborhoods where we live*, the places we work and play, and the people we come across each day. – *Wide Open Spaces* (2007), pages 34-35, 43

What a glorious mystery revealed by Paul; one that he calls, “*the great mystery*,” “*the mystery of godliness*.”

This is a **great mystery**: but I speak concerning Christ and the church (Ephesians 5:32).

To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27).

And without controversy great is the **mystery of godliness**: God was manifest in the flesh ... (I Timothy 3:16).

Godliness is not following some moral or religious code; rather, it is “**God manifest in the flesh.**” God is the only meaning and definition of godliness. Christ is the only One Who can live the godly life. I am God’s dwelling place, and the Father seeks the manifestation of the life of His Son in my mortal flesh,

Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we who live are always delivered unto death for Jesus’ sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh (II Corinthians 4:10-11).

Behaving Myself

But if I tarry long, that you may know how you ought to behave yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh ... (I Timothy 3:15-16).

This passage has nothing to do with “behaving in church” – a building used specifically for religious activities. Parents may be heard telling their children, “Now I want you to behave yourself today in church.” This is NOT the meaning of, “*behave yourself in the house of God.*” This is NOT an admonition about appropriate behavior in religious buildings. It is about the behavior of believers in their lives.

How am I, as a believer, to behave? Paul teaches me to behave like who I am! I am in the Body of Christ, God’s *living church*. I am to behave accordingly! This way, the God Who lives within me can be manifested through my flesh (*i.e.*, His temple), in my daily life.

*But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us ... Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the **life** also of Jesus might be **manifested in our body**. ... that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh (II Corinthians 4:7, 10-11).*

Paul did not stop there – with Christ being manifested – His desire was for something even greater: that Christ would be magnified.

*According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also **Christ shall be magnified in my body**, whether it is by life, or by death (Philippians 1:20).*

I behave myself as a member of Christ's Body when He is manifested and magnified in my body – His holy temple, **“which temple you are.”**

What does the behavior of the believer look like? What does the manifestation and magnification of God's life through Christ look like?

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance (Galatians 5:22-23).

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).

Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith you are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:1-3).

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing each other, and dealing graciously with each other, if any man has a quarrel against any: even as Christ dealt graciously

with you, so also do you. And above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfectness (Colossians 3:12-14).

Be kindly affectionate to each other with brotherly love; in honor preferring each other (Romans 12:10).

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good to all men, especially to them who are of the household of faith (Galatians 6:10).

Don't be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good (Romans 12:21).

God lives in me. I am His temple. I am the **“the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”**

This is who and what Father says I am. I will behave myself accordingly.

I am His Temple.

I AM ... TRANSLATED

Who ... has translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son (Colossians 1:13).

I am translated. This is who and what Father says I am.

Many in Christendom are caught up in an earthly citizenship. They are so easily distracted by the crosscurrents of the gentile *“elements of the world”* (Galatians 4:3), for truly *“the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing”* (Psalm 2:1; Acts 4:25).

Satan currently has been appointed the *“god of this world”* (II Corinthians 4:4). God uses him as an instrument to set up and remove the kingdoms and the rulers of the world to fulfill His purpose of the ages.

[God] *changes the times and the seasons: He removes kings, and sets up kings ...* (Daniel 2:21).

... The Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomsoever He will. (Daniel 4:17, 25, 32; 5:21).

It is God Who directs the affairs of this earth, ►

including the political realm, and He uses the instrumentality of the Adversary to accomplish His purpose among the nations, bringing them all to vanity.

Let them be confounded and troubled for the future; yes, let them be put to shame, and perish: that men may know that You, Whose name alone is Jehovah, are the most high over all the earth (Psalms 83:18).

And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and [God] does according to His will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay His hand, or say to Him, "What have You done?" (Daniel 4:35).

Thus the Lord Jesus Christ said to Pilate,

You could have no power at all against Me, except it were given you from above (John 19:11).

God, however, has translated me from the *vain* kingdoms of this world into the glorious kingdom of His dear Son. This world is not my homeland, as I am a citizen of the commonwealth of heaven.

For our citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20, KJV margin).

... Our citizenship in the heavens ... (Rotherham's Emphasized Bible, 1868).

... Our citizenship is in the heavens ... (Young's Literal Translation, 1898).

... Our commonwealth has its existence in the heavens ... (Darby Translation, 1890).

With thanksgiving I embrace the fact that I have been divinely "*transported*" into His celestial domain. Thus, I am a "*fellow-citizen with the saints*" (Ephesians 2:19) – a foreigner here, a citizen of the high-realm.

J.C. O'Hair (1876-1958) wrote the following in his work *Ambassadors of Reconciliation*:

The word "*conversation*" here [in Philippians 3:20] could be translated "*citizenship*" or even "*politics*" ... The citizenship and politics of every

representative of Christ is in heaven ... The believer is in the world, but not of the world. Unto him has been committed the Word of reconciliation. To him is given the ministry of reconciliation.

Bill (William) Petri, also adds his voice to this discussion in his work *Government, War and the Christian* (2008, p. 11):

The word "*conversation*" in Philippians 3:20 is an interesting word. It is the Greek word *politeuma* and means "the commonwealth of citizens." It is interesting that in the English language we take our word *politic* from this Greek word.

David C. Pack, in *Do Christians Vote?* also shares the meaning of the word *politeuma* and its application to Paul's use of the phrase "*Body of Christ*":

The Greek word for citizenship is *politeuma*. "Politics" comes from this word! Christians *do* have a "political agenda," but it is not of *this* world.

Paul teaches us that, as members of Christ's Body we already have a citizenship, and it is in heaven. Our government is there; our King is there; our politics are there.

I do not *belong* to an earthly kingdom; mine is a heavenly one.

*... The Lord ... will preserve me unto His **heavenly** kingdom ... (II Timothy 4:18).*

Earthly rulers are not mine; Christ is my King and only Potentate.

... Our Lord Jesus Christ ... Who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords (I Timothy 6:14-15).

This celestial kingdom is *MY calling*:

God, Who has called you to His kingdom and glory (I Thessalonians 2:12).

I am who and what Father says I am.

I am translated.

