



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume XI
Issue 259

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

The Divine Reckoning of the Renewed Mind

Part 1

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

AM I HAVING AN IDENTITY CRISIS?

Who am I? I mean, who am I *really*? Some may respond to the question of who they are by giving an answer related to what they do, or based on their human relationships.

Answers related to what one *does* are:

- “I am a carpenter.”
- “I am a housewife.”
- “I am a student.”
- “I am a secretary.”
- “I am a salesman.”
- “I am a foreman.”

Answers related to *human relationships* are:

- “I am a mother.”
- “I am a father.”
- “I am a wife.”
- “I am a husband.”

Now, these answers are not wrong. There is some sense in which these represent a *part* of who I am; but these do not ultimately represent who I *really* am. They are not my *true* identity.

If these represent the way in which I define myself, what happens if the circumstances of my life change? They are far from being stable. They can change in a moment; sometimes drastically, sometimes permanently. If I see my core identity in the *frailty* of what I



do, and in my human relationships, then my identity is always subject to change. How *fragile* such earthly identities are!

Yet, is who I *really* am *constantly* changing, or at least subject to change at *any* time? Who am I, *really*?

Before I can actually answer this question, I need to think about some scriptural terms to help direct my thinking of just who I am, just what my true IDENTITY is. Here are just a few things that GOD says I am:

- Saved – II Timothy 1:9
- Blessed – Ephesians 1:3
- Justified – (Romans 8:30)
- Complete – Colossians 2:10
- Reconciled – II Corinthians 5:18

THE FILTER

There is a very common mistake that is made when it comes to seeing ourselves as who we really are. It is a religious teaching that could be called “*the Filter*.” Here is how this teaching goes:

(see **I AM ...**, page 2415)

I Am ... Who and What God Says I Am	
– The Divine Reckoning of the Renewed	
Mind, Part 1	2413
Editorial	2420

Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

ISSN: 1936-9360

Volume XI, No. 259 – September 21, 2010

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).

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; 1 Thessalonians 5:21).

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

SUBSCRIPTION

Electronic Version (e-mailed to you)

1 Year (52 issues) – \$10; 2 Years (104 issues) – \$20

Printed Version (mailed to you)

½ Year (26 issues) – \$25; 1 Year (52 issues) – \$50

PATRIARCHS

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.

Bible Student's Notebook™

PO Box 265, Windber, PA 15963

Office: (800) 784-6010

Local: (814) 701-0063

bsn@studyshef.com

www.BibleStudentsNotebook.com

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. – Editor

(clyde@studyshef.com)

André Sneider – Managing Editor

Rick Lemons – Associate Editor

Department Managers

Clyde L. Pilkington, III – Office

Nathan H. Pilkington – Shipping

Copyright © 1989-2010 Pilkington & Sons

GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS

Do you know of someone who is hungry for truth? Who loves to study the Bible? Who is disillusioned by traditional Christianity? Who thinks outside the box? If so, why not give them a gift subscription to the *BSN*? It could be a gift that could change their life!

BOUND BSN ISSUES

We have bound past issues of the *BSN*, only \$19.95 each. The more recent issues of the *BSN* contain our most recent understanding of Biblical issues. Therefore, when ordering volumes of the *BSN*, we would encourage you to order the latest volumes and work your way backwards.

Volume 9 (Issues 201-225) (#8286)	Volume 10 (Issues 226-250) (#8286)
Volume 7 (Issues 151-175) (#8288)	Volume 8 (Issues 176-200) (#8287)
Volume 5 (Issues 101-125) (#8290)	Volume 6 (Issues 126-150) (#8289)
Volume 3 (Issues 51-75) (#8292)	Volume 4 (Issues 76-100) (#8291)
Volume 1 (Issues 1-25) (#8295)	Volume 2 (Issues 26-50) (#8293)

www.studyshef.com

Find many rare books and Bibles at our 24/7 online bookstore. Gift certificates are also available.

YOUR EDITOR'S BOOKS

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. has 10 books rich in Bible study material:

- ***The Believer's Warfare: Wearing the Armor of Light in the Darkness of this World*** (#7000) \$9.95
- ***The Church in Ruins: Brief Thoughts on II Timothy*** (#3325) \$9.95
- ***Due Benevolence: A Survey of Biblical Sexuality – It Might Not Be What You Think!*** (#3775) \$24.95
- ***The Outsiders: God's Called-Out Ones – A Biblical Look at God's Ecclesia*** (#4125) \$9.95
- ***Heaven's Embassy: The Divine Plan & Purpose of the Home*** (#5675) \$19.95
- ***I Choose! Living Life to Its Fullest*** (#4120) \$16.95
- ***Nothing Will Be Lost! The Truth About God's Good News*** (#3750) \$9.95
- ***The Plowboy's Bible: God's Word for Common Man – The Story of God's Amazing Book*** (#4425) \$19.95
- ***The Salvation Of ALL: Creation's Final Destination – A Biblical Look at Universal Reconciliation*** (#7001) \$19.95
- ***Suffering: God's Forgotten Gift*** (#5150) \$9.95

BOOKLETS & LEAFLETS

We currently have 215 booklets & leaflets. These make good reading, as well as great tools for sharing truth with others. ***Complete Set*** (#1001) \$50/Pack.

OUR ONLINE ARTICLES

Read past articles from the *Bible Student's Notebook* online:

<http://www.pilkingtonandsons.com/Articles.htm>

DAILY e-MAIL GOODIES™

Sign up for our free daily emails that contain short thoughts on Biblical themes:

www.DailyEmailGoodies.com

FACEBOOK & SKYPE

We post our *Daily Email Goodies*, as well as new book notices on *Facebook*. Search for "Study Shelf" for our literature ministry and "Clyde Pilkington Jr" for the editor's personal profile. Your editor is also available on *Skype* – user name is "Salvation of All."

OUR BLOGS

We have 14 blogs on various subjects. To view these blogs visit:

<http://www.pilkingtonandsons.com/ourblogs.htm>

JOINTS AND BANDS

Are you looking for other believers with whom you can enjoy fellowship and study? We have set up a blog for just this purpose.

- (1) Go to www.JointsandBands.com
- (2) Choose your state on the right-hand side.
- (3) Add a post with your name and contact information.

I Am ... (continued from page 2413)

God is holy. I am a sinner. For God to have a relationship with me, or even look at me, He must place a filter between me and Himself. This filter is Jesus Christ. After the filter is in place, when God looks at me, He doesn't really see "me" anymore; instead, He sees me *through* the filter so that what He really sees is Christ. God sees His Son and His record of righteousness, not me (the sinner and my record of unrighteousness).

What would happen if this filter were removed? What would God see then? He would see the *real me* for who I truly am: a sinner. In other words, "*the Filter*" teaching leaves me unchanged – I am still "just a sinner." That is who I am. Or, at least that is how this "*Filter*" doctrine is taught. Little wonder that so many seek to find their identification elsewhere, for this understanding does nothing about one's true identity!

Here is one of religion's tragically flawed teachings: that I only RECEIVE something new (like "righteousness") instead of BECOMING something new (like "righteous"). There is a vast difference between *having* righteousness and *being* righteous. Notice what the Scripture has to say about this:

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 passage does not say, "that we might *have* the righteousness of God in Him"; instead it says, "*that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him*" – the magnitude of such a distinction! To *be* righteous is to be holy; and I am holy because God says I am.

... the elect of God, **holy** and beloved ... (Colossians 3:12).

... all the **holy** brothers (I Thessalonians 5:27).

... the temple of God is **holy**, which temple you are (I Corinthians 3:17).

To be holy is to be a saint, and I am a saint because God says I am. The tragedy of "*the Filter*" teaching of the religious system is expressed in the old familiar adage, "I'm just a sinner saved by grace." A "*sinner*" is not who I *am* NOW. This does not mean that I do not sin; this is just not my *true* identity any longer. My *true* identity is a *saint*. "*Sinner*" was my *former* identity in Adam. Notice how Paul speaks of it in the past tense:

God commends His love towards us, in that

*while we **were yet sinners**, Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:8).

Now, instead of calling me by my *former* identity, Paul calls me by my *new* identity – a "*saint*" (c.f. II Corinthians 1:1; Ephesians 1:1; Philippians 1:1).

The fact is that I *am* a New Creature:

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

This brings me back to my original question, "Who am I, *really*?" Simply put, I am who and what God says I am! That's who I really am. I'm not just a father, or a salesperson: I am RIGHTEOUS – HOLY – A SAINT – A NEW CREATURE. These are all my *new* identity! My *former* identity would not work in a relationship with God, so it has died – it has "*passed away*."

... **old things have passed away**; behold, all things have become new (II Corinthians 5:17).

I am not God's rehabilitation project or remodeling work. I'm not God's fixer-upper; a sort of divine handyman special. I am God's **new creature** – a member of His new divine species!

I need to stop struggling with my *former* identity. I am called to bask in my *true* identity – the one that God has given me. I need to let my identity crisis be over.

AN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF FAITH

I believed, and therefore have I spoken (II Corinthians 4:13).

There is a Divine Record of who and what God says I am. What follows here is a short encyclopedia of faith; it is the *truth* about *me*. It is the truth about me, simply because it is God Who has said it. God has spoken these truths concerning me – the *real me*. I will believe His record!

I Am ...

Accepted (Ephesians 1:6)
Adopted (Galatians 4:5)
Alive (Galatians 2:20)
An Ambassador (II Corinthians 5:20)
Ascended (Ephesians 2:6)
Beloved (Romans 1:7)
Blameless (Ephesians 1:4)

Blessed (Ephesians 1:3)
Bought (I Corinthians 7:23)
Buried (Colossians 2:20)
Called (Romans 8:30)
Chosen (Ephesians 1:4)
Christ (I Corinthians 12:12)
Complete (Colossians 2:10)
Crucified (Galatians 2:20)
Dead (Romans 6:2, 11)
Delivered (Colossians 1:13)
Elect (Colossians 3:12)
Fellowcitizen (Ephesians 2:19)
Foreknown (Romans 8:29)
Free (Galatians 5:1)
Glorified (Romans 8:30)
His Body (I Corinthians 12:27)
His Temple (I Corinthians 3:16)
His Workmanship (Ephesians 2:10)
Holy (Ephesians 1:4)
In Fellowship (I Corinthians 1:9)
Indwelt (Ephesians 4:6)
Justified (Romans 8:30)
New Creation (II Corinthians 5:17)
Predestinated (Romans 8:30)
Reconciled (II Corinthians 5:18)
Redeemed (Galatians 3:13)
Rich (II Corinthians 8:9)
Righteous (II Corinthians 5:21)
Risen (Colossians 2:12)
Sanctified (Romans 1:7)
Saved (Ephesians 2:8)
Sealed (Ephesians 1:13)
Seated (Ephesians 2:6)
A Son of God (Romans 8:14)
Translated (Colossians 1:13)
Triumphant (II Corinthians 2:14)
Victorious (I Corinthians 15:57)

I will now take a closer look at a few of these truths of who and what Father says I am.

I AM ... ACCEPTED

I am accepted. This is what Father says I am. Regardless of how I feel about it, Father has made me accepted in the person of His Son.

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

I am “accepted in the Beloved.” Father is fully satisfied with me, because I am in living union with His “Beloved Son. This union is not just in His “Son,” but in

His “Beloved Son” – “accepted in the Beloved.”

I am so amazed as I think of the union into which He has brought me. Paul’s usage of “Beloved” as a reference to the Lord Jesus Christ is phenomenal. Twice in Christ’s earthly life – once at the beginning of His ministry, and once at the end – Father spoke from Heaven and said of Him, “This is My Beloved Son, in Whom I am well Pleased” (Matthew 3:17; 17:5).

Father did not just call Him His “Loved Son.” No, He called Him His “Beloved Son.” Noah Webster defines “beloved” as “greatly loved; dear to the heart” (*American Dictionary of the English Language*, 1828).

The word “accepted” (“has made us **accepted** in the Beloved”) is translated from the Greek word *charitoō*, meaning to “indue [endow, or invest] with special honor,” which is also translated as “highly favored” in Luke 1:28 in the *King James Version*.

*And the angel came in to her [Mary], and said, “Hail, you who are **highly favored**, the Lord is with you: blessed are you among women” (Luke 1:28).*

All of this speaks volumes to my heart – the fact that I am highly favored “in the Beloved.” What is associated with this “Beloved” between the Father and the Son? Father’s full pleasure in His Son! – “in Whom [the Beloved] I am well pleased.”

Paul uses this term “Beloved” so that I may be able to appreciate that this is where my acceptance lies. Father has accepted me, and is pleased with me, because I am in His “Beloved Son.” His unconditional acceptance of me is found in my secure union with His “Beloved.” I have been *highly favored!*

Even though I do not always do those things which are acceptable, I myself am, however, always accepted in Him.

A.J. Gordon (1836-1895) wrote concerning this divine acceptance,

What we are in Christ is something that is completely detached from all the fluctuations of Christian experience. It neither rises nor falls with the tide of feeling. It knows nothing of degrees.

Christ is the standard by which it is gauged, it becomes absolute and without the possibility of change, since Jesus Christ is, “the same yesterday and today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8).

Since we are in Him and one with Him, we share His place in the Father's heart, and we may know, without a doubt, that we are "accepted in the Beloved" (Ephesians 1:6).

What a blessed phrase is this, "in the Beloved." In that voice that came down from heaven and said, "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17), we may now hear God's approving sentence upon ourselves, as well as upon our Lord. For being in Christ, the beams of eternal love falling upon Him must fall upon us as included in Him. To be in Him is to be loved of the Father, because it is to be in the very focus of the divine affection.

Is not the occasion of much of our distrust and darkness to be found in the fact that we estimate ourselves by ourselves, according to the measure of a man, instead of according to the measure of Christ? He is the true example of our standing before God.

We may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as He is, so are we in this world (I John 4:17).

Jesus Christ not only represents God to us in His Own being, "the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person" (Hebrews 1:3), but He represents us to God. We see God in Christ. God sees us in Christ.

We may without contradiction join the confession of a weak faith and much guilty unbelief with the triumphant confidence, "If we believe not, yet He abides faithful: He cannot deny Himself" (II Timothy 2:13).

In Christ, Boston, 1872

I am who and what Father says I am.

I am accepted.

I AM ... ADOPTED

I am adopted. This is what Father says I am.

*To redeem them who were under the law, that we might receive the **adoption** of sons* (Galatians 4:5).

Through my union with the Lord Jesus Christ, I have been brought into His Sonship. Jesus Christ is the SON

OF GOD, "the firstborn among **many** brothers" (Romans 8:29). I am Christ's brother, as well as a "son of God" (Philippians 2:15).

This is a wonderful reality that is often missed because of the more modern usage of the word "adoption" – that of taking someone from outside of the family and making them a member. This is *NOT* the scriptural concept; instead, *adoption* is that of the placement of one already in the family, into a full-ADULT (sonship) position.

The word translated as "adoption" is the Greek word *uihothesia*, meaning "sonship," or son-placing. It is defined as:

Sonship, literally son-placing, the station in life accorded a son. – A.E. Knoch (1874-1965), *Babe, Child, Sonship and Firstborn*

Adoption is the act of God whereby children of God redeemed by Christ are made adult sons, whose full manifestations as such awaits the resurrection. – C.I. Scofield, *The Scofield Bible Correspondence Course* (1907), Vol. III, page 412

The Bible doctrine of "adoption" means that I am not just a *CHILD OF GOD*, wonderful enough as that truth is, but I am much more than that: through my union with Christ, as a member of His Body, I am a *SON OF GOD*. My standing before God is not that of a minor *child*; rather, I have the divine position of a full-grown son – an *adult* son of God.

The word "minor" is defined as "a state of infancy; one who has not attained the age of a major." The word "minor" is in contrast with the word "major." The word "major" is defined as "one who has attained his full age, and has acquired all his civil rights; one who is no longer a minor; an adult." This is a legal concept known as "majority" – "The state or condition of a person who has arrived at full age. He is then said to be a major, in opposition to a minor, which is his condition during infancy" (*Bouvier's Law Dictionary*, 1856).

Speaking of this distinction, A.E. Knoch writes:

In the Scriptures, those who are too young to have a voice in affairs, who need a guardian, are minors ... The *Authorized Version* renders this "babe," "child" and "childish" ... It is in contrast to the wise and intelligent ... mature man (I Corinthians 13:10-11) ... In Israel a male was mature physically when he arrived at the age of twenty (Leviticus 27:3, ►

5). Then he was drafted into the host, or army, and was liable to military service, being considered a mature member of the nation. – *Babe, Child, Sonship and Firstborn*

This Sonship position that I have is that of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. I have been placed into union with His full adult sonship. *This* is the glorious principle known as “adoption.”

*To redeem them who were under the law, that we might receive the **adoption** of sons* (Galatians 4:5).

*For you have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but you have received the spirit of **adoption**, whereby we cry, “Abba, Father”* (Romans 8:15).

Of course, the world does not yet know who I am. My divine sonship has been completely hidden from them at this time; but one day I will be made manifest. In the resurrection, God will reveal to all of creation who His sons are. This will be my glorious coronation day.

*For the earnest expectation of the creature waits for the **manifestation** of the sons of God* (Romans 8:19).

The Greek word rendered “manifestation” here is *apokalupsis*, meaning “disclosure,” and translated elsewhere in the *King James Version* as, “appearing” and “revelation.” The *Concordant Literal Translation* uses the word “unveiling.”

“The sons of God” are currently veiled. Until my manifestation with “the sons of God,” the rest of God’s creation doesn’t know who I am.

As I walk through life, the circumstances will not reflect my true identity. In fact, I am not exempt from all of the apparent vanities of this *dark-land*. I’ll have my share of the *dark-side*: suffering, pain, discouragement, difficulties, weariness, pressure and the like; but I’m not defined by these details.

Although I’m beckoned to the contrary on every side, I have a higher life – the *high-life* from above, from the *light-land* – the *light-side* of divine life. I am called to walk in this radiant light as my Father’s full-grown, adult son.

I am what Father says I am.

I am adopted.

I AM ... ALIVE

I am alive. This is what Father says I am.

Although I *had been* dead in my relationship with God, I am *now* alive unto Him.

*You He revived, who **were dead** in trespasses and sins* (Ephesians 2:1).

*Even when we **were dead** in sins, has made us alive together with Christ* (Ephesians 2:5).

You, being dead in your sins ... has He made alive together with Him (Colossians 2:13).

My union with Christ has brought me into direct identity with His crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, heavenly ascension and celestial seating by the right hand of Father. Therefore I was crucified (Galatians 2:20), dead (Romans 6:2, 11), buried (Colossians 2:20), risen (Colossians 2:12), ascended (Ephesians 2:6) and seated (Ephesians 2:6) *with Him*.

This changes everything. I am now:

... **Alive** from the dead ... (Romans 6:13).

... **Alive** together with Christ (Ephesians 2:5).

Now my life is no longer my own, but,

... *Christ lives in me* ... (Galatians 2:20).

For to me to live is Christ ... (Philippians 1:21).

This being true, if I want to get to know who I really am, I’m going to have to get to know the *Lord Jesus Christ* – my true life! His life is real, meaningful life – Divine life, life that can be lived and enjoyed daily! It is *His* life that brings me into *living* union with Father.

... **Alive** to God **through** Jesus Christ our Lord ... (Romans 6:11).

C. Baxter Kruger writes of Christ’s life in us,

He wants us alive with His knowledge of His Father’s heart, filled and overflowing with His peace and unearthly assurance, free from our imprisoned darkness, free to care, free to forgive, free to love, free to know and be known. He wants us free to give ourselves for others, and free to receive their self-giving in fellowship. His passion is that we ex-

perience, in our relationships with one another and with the whole creation, the life He has with His Father ... – *Across All Worlds: Jesus Inside Our Darkness*, 2007, page 64

The truth of *Who HE IS* is the answer to my own identity. It forever removes my “need” constantly to evaluate, analyze or go over the past to get to know myself. Christ frees me from all of this!

I am who and what Father says that I am. With His life,

I am alive.

I AM ... AN AMBASSADOR

*All things are from God, Who has reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and has given to us the ministry of reconciliation; to wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them; and has committed to us the Word of reconciliation. Now then we are **ambassadors for Christ**, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be reconciled to God. 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 5:18-21).*

I am an ambassador. This is what Father says I am.

In II Corinthians 5 Paul presents the issue of ambassadorship. Representing Christ, as an ambassador (“*in His stead*”), is NOT a religious activity; rather, it is a *way of life*. Ambassadorship is not something I “go do.” It is simply being a daily, living vessel – a channel of divine life to the darkened world. It is allowing Christ to use me to manifest His love and the message of redemptive work to mankind.

I am not here to manifest the lives or ideas of other believers, however spiritual they may be. My mimicking of them and their techniques only aids in the creation of the air of phoniness. Indeed, to do so is *acting* like something I am not. Instead, I am to manifest Christ; or rather, He is to manifest His life *through* my own unique personality and circumstances – all of which are out of Him!

I have not been called to *IMPOSE* the gospel upon those around us. I simply *EXPOSE* it to them through the life of God in me. Even the Lord Jesus Christ, during His earthly ministry with Israel, spoke of being “*fishers of men*” (Matthew 4:19). It is interesting that He should use that particular type of analogy. He did not choose

to use an expression such as “hunters of men.” Yet much of modern “evangelism” has become a *hunt* – cold, hard shots at the *victims* – and once they are taken, another one can be “*racked up on the wall*.”

Paul speaks of being “*in Christ's stead*.” Christ is to be made manifest in me (II Corinthians 4:10-11). This manifestation is of *the life of Jesus*. The “*life of Jesus*” usually brings to mind the four “*Gospels*” (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John); but there is another manifestation of the Lord Jesus Christ's life that is going on today! There is a modern “*life of Jesus*” being lived. It is the manifestation of the Lord Jesus Christ through me, in me.

... That the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body ... That the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh (II Corinthians 4:10-11).

The purpose of God is to manifest *the life of Jesus* in me. This does not mean that the four divine biographies of Jesus (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) are without value to me. One of their benefits is that I can learn about the *quality* of the “*life of Jesus*.” The doctrine of His “*kingdom of heaven*” teaching to Israel does not void the *quality* of His manifest *character*. Quite the contrary! The Lord Jesus Christ was very human and interesting!

Some of the words that could be used to describe Him would be: real, enjoyable, personable and winsome. He was often a supper guest, and children were brought to him. He was compassionate, loving, caring and sympathetic. He was open, accessible and responsive. He was perceptive and observant. He was passionate and fervent. At times He was even exasperating and controversial. He was often painfully frank and outspoken (Matthew 23). He had, by the standards of many, a *tacky* (if not contemptible) taste in friends (Matthew 9:10-11). His friends were lepers, harlots, drunks and fishermen (Matthew 11:19). He was a carpenter! In this sense He was such an ordinary man. He labored with His hands as a commoner. This was the venue of God's life manifest in Him.

Much can be learned from His life in the Gospels. I can learn the freedom to be human *and* still have the life of God manifest in me. For example, in the account of the woman at the well as recorded in John chapter four, the Lord Jesus Christ *effectively communicated* with her. Three words could be used to describe the manner in which He achieved this. He observed, related and stimulated. (see **I AM...**, last page)

Beloved,

Greetings to each of you in the glorious grace of the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The god of the religious system began in failure – he lost mankind in the garden of Eden. He also ends in failure – with the vast majority of mankind lost in sin – lost forever from his love and redemption. The conclusion of the religious system’s teaching is that their god either cannot, or will not save all mankind.

However, the true God of Scripture is far greater than many could ever imagine Him to be. In fact, He will be completely victorious in His plan to save all men. He will accomplish this through the triumphant, finished cross-work of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

This Issue

Beginning with this issue of the *BSN*, and continuing through the next three, we will be running a series of articles entitled *I Am ... Who and What God Says I Am! The Divine Reckoning of the Renewed Mind*.

This is material of vital importance to the believer. It is about who and what Father has made us in Christ. This *I Am* series is the center portion of a planned trilogy. The third section, *I Choose*, was completed and placed into book form in 2007. It also had run in the pages of the *BSN* (issues 85-92).

I Am ... (continued from previous page)

Christ first observed the woman. She came for water. He then related to her. He identified with her pursuit of water. He asked for water. He then used the relationship (i.e., the common denominator) – the need of water – to stimulate her. He baited her, He did not hunt her. He stirred her natural curiosity. He spoke to her of her interest, of their mutual interest, and then of “living water.” All of this was done in the casual, natural context of normal, daily life. He did not rush, He did not push. He did not cram, He did not slam. He did not hunt: rather, He fished – and carefully note the use of the analogy: while “fishing” implies an active participation and interaction, it also requires a patient waiting before results may be realized.

God has not called me to the pushy, forceful, overbearing, obnoxious, scripted salesmanship of profes-

So, as you can see we are managing to write this trilogy backwards. Part 3 in 2007, and now part 2 in 2010. We trust Father for the finishing of part 1, *He Is*, making the set complete:

He Is – I Am – I Choose

We actually ran the first two sections of this current *I Am* series back in April 2009 (*BSN* 186). I didn’t get back to writing this series until nearly a year later when we ran the entire series in the *Daily Email Goodies*. In electing to continue this series here in the *BSN* now we have decided, for continuity, that we should begin by reissuing the original sections as well so that our readers can enjoy the entire series as a whole. Enjoy!

Thank You

We so appreciate the continued mutual fellowship we receive from those of you who read this little periodical. We are encouraged by those who call and write to communicate with us. You are used of Father more than you will probably ever know.

Until next week,



Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

sional religious “evangelism.” He *has* called me to a unique manifestation of the life and love of His dear Son – in all of my faults, failures and brokenness – in the details of my ordinary life. I am not trying to get anyone to “do” anything. I am simply encouraging others to “be” – “**Be reconciled to God.**”

I have been given the glorious “ministry” and “Word” – not of condemnation – but of “reconciliation.” I give others the glorious *good news* of what God has *already* done for them. I encourage them simply to “be” – to “be” in relationship to God what He has made them to be: “reconciled.”

This is who and what Father says I am.

I am an ambassador.

■