



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume XI
Issue 261

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

The Divine Reckoning of the Renewed Mind

Part 3

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

I AM ... JUSTIFIED

... Being **justified** by His grace ... (Titus 3:7).

This is who and what Father says I am.

I am justified.

I have been made righteous by God. This is what the word “*justify*” means. Justification is a judicial term of righteousness.

Justification's Definition

Constituted righteous. – A.E. Knoch, *Concordant Keyword Concordance*

Justification's Etymology

Just – (root) adjective – meaning: righteous.

fy – a suffix used to form a verb – meaning: to make.

tion – a suffix used to form a noun from a verb – meaning: state or condition of being.

Thus justification is my *state of having been made righteous*.



The Source of My Justification Is God

... That He may be just, and the **Justifier** of him who believes in Jesus (Romans 3:26).

Who will lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God Who **justifies** (Romans 8:33).

The Means of My Justification Is Grace

Being **justified freely by His grace** ... (Romans 3:24).

... Being **justified by His grace** ... (Titus 3:7).

My justification is totally apart from the works of the law.

Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall **no** flesh be justified in His sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin ... Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith **without** the deeds of the law (Romans 3:20, 28).

Knowing that a man is **not** justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus

(see **I AM ...**, page 2431)

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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 2429)

Christ ... That **no** man is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident: for, "The just shall live by faith" (Galatians 2:16; 3:11).

The Ground of My Justification Is the Obedience of Christ

For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the **obedience** of One many are made righteous (Romans 5:19).

Being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became **obedient** to death, even the death of the cross (Philippians 2:8).

The Basis of My Justification Is the Blood of Christ

... Being now **justified by His blood** ... (Romans 5:9).

The Extent of My Justification Is Total and Complete

By Him all who believe are justified **from all things**, from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses (Acts 13:39).

There is no area of my life that has been left out of being justified. This is FAR MORE than forgiveness. Justification is NOT being pronounced "forgiven," or even "innocent," but "**RIGHTEOUS!**"

The Guarantee of Justification Is the Resurrection of Christ

Who was delivered for our offenses, and raised again for our justification (Romans 4:25).

The Results of Justification Are Peace and Freedom

Justification gives me peace.

Therefore being justified by faith, we have

peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1).

Justification gives me freedom from condemnation.

... Judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offenses to justification. For if by one man's offense death reigned by one; much more they who receive abundance of grace, and of the gift of righteousness, shall reign in life by One, Jesus Christ. Therefore, as by the offense of one, judgment came upon all men to condemnation, even so by the righteousness of One the free gift came upon all men to justification of life (Romans 5:16-18).

Now that I have been declared judicially righteous, I can NEVER have a judicial charge of offense filed against me.

There is therefore now no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus ... Who will lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God Who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ Who died, or rather Who is risen again, Who is even at the right hand of God, Who also makes intercession for us (Romans 8:1, 33, 34).

I am who and what Father says I am.

I am justified.

I AM ... A MEMBER OF HIS BODY

Now you are the Body of Christ, and members in particular (I Corinthians 12:27).

For as the body is one, and has many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ (I Corinthians 12:12).

I am a member of His Body.

This is who and what Father says I am.

In I Corinthians 12 Paul makes an analogy between my physical body and the Body of Christ. In :12 he uses what might appear to some to be a most startling phrase – “so also is Christ.” In so doing, Paul calls the Body of Christ simply, “Christ.”

In this verse Paul is not referring to the *actual* Person of Christ Himself, but he is discussing the many-membered Christ – God’s *ecclesia*. In doing so he highlights the divinely significant relationship between Christ and the believer; between Christ and the members of His Body.

I am one with the Lord Jesus Christ. I am so in oneness with Him, and so fully identified with Him that Paul calls me by Jesus’ title: “Christ.”

A similar example can be seen in the relationship between Adam and Eve. We are told,

*Male and female created He them; and blessed them, and **called their name Adam**, in the day when they were created (Genesis 5:2).*

Eve was one with Adam, her husband. Adam and Eve had a *unified* identity before God.

And they two shall be one flesh: so then they are no more two, but one flesh (Mark 10:8).

“For two,” says He, “shall be one flesh” (I Corinthians 6:16).

A man ... shall be joined to his wife, and they two shall be one flesh (Ephesians 5:31).

So it is with the Lord Jesus Christ and me:

But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit (I Corinthians 6:17).

There is the *Lord Jesus Christ*, and then there is the *many-membered Body of Christ*; there is an inseparable union between the two. The *many-membered Body of Christ* is one with the *Lord Jesus Christ* – He being the Head.

The Body of Christ: A Mystery Body

This *many-membered Christ* was a mystery. It is called “*the mystery of Christ*.” Not that it was Christ’s personal secret, but it was an undisclosed aspect concerning Christ. That there would even be a *many-membered Christ* was not revealed to anyone prior to “*the revelation of the mystery* (Romans 16:25) committed to Paul.

*That by revelation He made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in few words; by which when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ, which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it is now revealed to His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; **that** the Gentiles should be joint enjoyers of an allotment, and of the same Body, and partakers of His promise in Christ by the Gospel (Ephesians 3:3-6).*

The *many-membered Christ* was not only referred to by Paul as “*the mystery of Christ*,” but he also called it “*a great mystery*” – one that concerned “*Christ and the called-out ones*.” Paul expounds on this “*great mystery*.”

So ought men to love their wives, as their own bodies. He who loves his wife, loves himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourishes and cherishes it, even as the Lord does the called-out ones: for we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined to his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the called-out ones (Ephesians 5:28-32).

The issue of this “*great mystery*” is that:

- I am One with Christ!

He who is joined to the Lord is one spirit (I Corinthians 6:17).

So we, being many, are one Body in Christ ... (Romans 12:5).

You are all one in Christ Jesus ... (Galatians 3:28).

- I am under His Headship!

He is the Head of the Body ... (Colossians 1:18).

The Head over all things to the called-out ones, who are His Body ... (Ephesians 1:22-23).

Christ is the Head of the called-out ones ... (Ephesians 5:23).

... the Head ... (Colossians 2:19).

- I am Identified “with Christ!”

In His Crucifixion: “... crucified **with Him** ...” (Romans 6:6).

In His Death: “... dead **with Christ** ...” (Romans 6:8).

In His Burial: “... buried **with Him** ...” (Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12).

In His Resurrection: “... risen **with Him** ...” (Colossians 2:12).

In His Enthronement: “... sit together in heavenly places **in Christ Jesus**” (Ephesians 2:6).

The Body of Christ: A Unified Body

The *many-membered Christ* not only makes me one with the *Lord Jesus Christ*, it also unites me to every other member of His Body.

So we, being many, are one Body in Christ, and every one members of each other (Romans 12:5).

For as the body is one, and has many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one Body ... For the body is not one member,

but many ... Now are there many members, yet one body ... Now you are the Body of Christ, and members in particular (I Corinthians 12:12-14, 20, 27).

We are members of each other ... For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones (Ephesians 4:25; 5:30).

You are all one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28).

The Body of Christ: An Anointed Body

Paul calls us “*Christ*.” Christ is not the *proper* name of Jesus. Christ is actually one of His *official* titles. What does the word “*Christ*” mean? The word means “*anointed*.” I am part of the many-membered Body of the Anointed One.

Now He Who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, is God (II Corinthians 1:21).

As part of the *many-membered Christ*, the Father has anointed me – “*He Who ... has anointed us, is God*.”

“*Anointed*” is the Greek word *chriō*, meaning “to consecrate to an office ...” (*Strong’s Greek Lexicon #5548*). *Chrio* is the root of *Christos*, the Greek word translated “*Christ*” in the Bible. In the Old Testament, prophets, priests and kings were all anointed to their divine service.

As a member of the Body of Christ – the Body of the Anointed One – I have been anointed, along with my Head, the Lord Jesus Christ, to serve with Him now and in the *ages to come*. I have been consecrated to a divine office in the *heavenly places*.

The Body of Christ: A Body of Possessors

Yet I am actually much more than a mere servant of God. The many members of the Body of Christ – the many-membered Christ – are destined to be joint-possessors of everything that God possesses. My Head has been made the possessor of all ►

things that belong to His Father.

His Son, Whom He has appointed Possessor of all things ... (Hebrews 1:2).

By my union with the Son of God, I, too, am now positioned as co-enjoyer of Christ's possessions.

Wherefore you are no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then a possessor of the allotment of God through Christ (Galatians 4:7).

*And if children, then possessors; possessors of God, and joint-possessors **with Christ** ... (Romans 8:17).*

Along with the Lord Jesus Christ my Head, I have been made a joint-possessor of all of Father's universe.

In the above verses the *King James Version* translates the Greek word *klēronomos* as "heir." The true meaning of this Greek word is confused in the reader's mind by this translation.

The meaning of the word is one who has acquired or obtained the portion allotted to him. The word does not carry the seeming necessity of death that "heir" and "inheritance" carry. God our Father doesn't need to die for us to possess our possession! He has made the Christ and His many-membered Body possessors!

Strong's Greek Lexicon says concerning *klēronomos*:

from *klēros* and the base of *nomos* (in its original sense of partitioning, i.e., (reflexively) getting by apportionment); a sharer by lot ... by implication, a possessor.

Thus the *Concordant Literal New Testament* translates *klēronomos* as "enjoyer of the allotment."

The members of Christ's Body, along with Him, are divine possessors!

The Body of Christ: A Governing Body

As a result of all the truths above, Christ's Many-Membered Body will be the ruling Body of the universe.

... We shall also reign with Him ... (II Timothy 2:12).

The Greek word used to translate "reign" here is *Strong's Greek Lexicon* #4821, *sumbasileuō*, meaning "to be co-regent." Webster defines "re-gent" as "a governor; a ruler ... one invested with vicarious authority."

I will co-reign as a co-regent with the Lord Jesus Christ, because Father has made me one with Him. This is "a great mystery" – "the mystery of Christ" – regarding my union with Him as a member of His Body. No wonder Paul could write to the Corinthians regarding their earthly, carnal and immature behavior:

Don't you know that the saints shall judge [rule] the world? (I Corinthians 6:2).

Don't you know that we shall judge [rule] angels? (I Corinthians 6:3).

By God's measureless and matchless grace I have been made a part of Christ's mystery Body, His united Body, His anointed Body, the Body of His inheritance, and His governing Body from the "heavenly places" in the "ages to come." It is all of Him!

Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No: but by the law of faith (Romans 3:27).

For you see your calling, brothers, that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called: but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, has God chosen, and things which are not, to

bring to nothing things that are: that no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him are you in Christ Jesus, Who from God is made to us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: that, according as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the Lord” (I Corinthians 1:26-31).

I am who and what Father says I am.

I am a member of His Body.

I AM ... A NEW CREATION

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

I am a new creation.

This is who and what Father says that I am.

The New Me in Christ

God has made me who I am as a part of His new creation. Any attempt at knowing who I really am must start here. So, who am I, really? I am a *new creation in Christ*. I have been “*created in Christ Jesus*” (Ephesians 2:10).

Many struggle in their Christian walk to find deliverance from “themselves.” Even those who have come to understand that they are new creatures in the Lord Jesus Christ also often believe that they are really still their old selves. They have been led to believe that there are somehow two of themselves.

They have been taught that there are two selves, or identities or natures, residing inside of them. They have been led to believe that they are always fighting an inward civil war for control – fighting to live, fighting to gain control, fighting for supremacy, fighting to have the dominant expression. What is so sad is that nothing could be farther from the truth. Remarkably, this is all some strange type of religious schizophrenia. It is a tiresome and burdensome struggle of the imagination.

The Former Me in Adam

Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin (Romans 6:6).

Many believers’ lives are lived from the grave – from the defeated dominion of the “*old man*” – from the former independent, Adamic-self that was finished on the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Through my union in Christ’s death and resurrection, my old self-life in Adam is history; I rest on this accomplished fact. There are many believers who are trying desperately to crucify themselves, when it already is a “*done deal*.” My crucifixion is a historical fact. I refuse to live under the domination of the old Adamic-life.

One Me

There is only one me. I am a new creature. I am one person, not two. I am not two creatures; I am one “*new creature*” – a totally new creation of God.

... *Old things are passed away* ...

My former self – my old identity in Adam, the old me – is dead and gone. It has “*passed away*.” It died with Christ. It is not who I am anymore – regardless of what I may think or do to the contrary!

... *Behold, all things have become new* ...

One Nature

I do not have two “natures.” I had an old one that used to be. I have a new one that now is. The battle is not an inward struggle between two “me’s.”

Not that there’s not a battle. It is just that it’s a battle of faith. The battle is about believing what God says is *now* true about me. It centers in me believing that I am who and what God says I am.

Many are seeking to be liberated from themselves. They think that they are in the midst of a great ►

battle between their two selves – their two “natures.” This is not what the Scriptures teach!

Paul clearly writes that we,

... **WERE by nature** the children of wrath
... (Ephesians 2:3).

A new nature has NOT been added to my old one. This would only be confusion, and God is not the author of that (I Corinthians 14:33). What I *was* by nature in Adam is in the past.

Christ once-and-for-all dealt with my former self at the cross. He has now made me a new self – “*partakers of the divine nature*” (II Peter 1:4).

I am not now liberated from my old self. Rather, I am now liberated to *be* my new self. I am *now* free to be who I really am: the real me – the only me that there is – the new creation that God has made me in Christ.

One Life

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

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

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

My former “I” is just that – it was crucified (executed) with Christ and no longer exists – “*I have been crucified with Christ ...*”

My new “I” is just that – new – *brand new*. It is the “I” of Christ living in me. It is the new “*life which I NOW live in the flesh ...*” My new life is HIS life. It is the only life I now have.

One Identity

I do not have two identities. I *had* an old one, but

now I have a new one – one former, one present.

My new identity – the new “I” – is that of unique design – of divine distinctiveness. As a son of God I am now free to be that one-of-a-kind individual whom God has created me to be – filled and made vibrant with His dynamic life living in and through me.

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

The Realization of My Liberated Self

People are always talking about their attempts to discover their true selves – their efforts of trying to “find themselves.” The believer in the Lord Jesus Christ needs to find out who they really are. All that is needed is a careful look at the Scriptures, and a simple faith in the words of who and what God says that I am. God knows who I am; all I need to do is believe Him.

The new me is the real me of union with Christ. This is *His* life. It is His life exchanged for my past one. It is the great exchange. Indeed it is the greatest of all exchanges – the truth of the divinely exchanged life.

Understanding and believing these glorious truths will allow me the freedom to be at rest with my new self – free to be the real me, the new man, the only me that there is – the me in Christ.

I refuse to be the shell of a person pushed into a mold of Adamic conformity. I will be the real me whom God uniquely designed me to be. I refuse to be bullied out of my divinely designed identity that Father has given me.

I am who and what Father says I am.

I am a new creation. ■