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# TOTAL TRUTH

# My Last Message to the Whole Church in the Whole World

...as recorded by the apostle Paul as the summary of his worldwide, churchwide revelation in chapters 6-8 of his Romans letter, and put in my own words.

I have this last message to share; and probably I can say it is the last, now being 95 years of age. Yet this is the most important, because it is about the first streams of what is to become a world flood. It all stemmed from the originality of the Spirit, totally unplanned and unpremeditated by me or any.

Having handed on the general secretaryship of the Worldwide Evangelization Crusade (WEC International) to a younger man just suited for it, I was then free to pour myself into my main absorption—the sharing with my fellow believers of Paul's (and my!) revelation of that mystery "once hidden, now made manifest to his saints" (Col. 1:26). That revelation is of a total present "Christ in you, the hope of [the total coming] glory" (1:27). He is the perfection in us, and we in Him are His human manifesters.

The radicalness of what a number of us call our Total Truth message to the whole Church in the whole world is not in what Paul called his once hidden, now manifest "mystery." That tremendous reality is becoming more commonly known by faith by us the redeemed. We do say with Paul in his Galatians 2:20,

#### by Norman Grubb

"Yet not I, but Christ liveth in me." But where we have been held up, and I for long, is with the previous statement of "I am crucified with Christ."

What is that "I"? That is the point. Is it just an inconsistent, Satan-and-sin-

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producing it's vine's fruit, a servant (slave) working only at the beck and call of his owner, a wife reproducing the seed of her husband, a temple indwelt by its God. Our human selves never were self-operating or self-relying, but *only* express and reproduce the products of our owner.

influenced "me"? And what does it mean when I say "I am crucified"? For evidently the "I" continues in living existence when Paul goes on to say, "Yet not I, but Christ liveth in me." There is the "me" back again! So what was crucified? And in what sense am I a "crucified me," who now comes back as a "resurrected me"? I was not clear about that for a long time.

But at last I saw the truth about our selves through Paul's Roman letter. He constantly underlines that our human "I" is nothing but a vessel that contains, a branch producing its vine's fruit, a servant (slave) working only at the beck and call of his owner, a wife reproducing the



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Great Britain and Western Europe Jon and Kim Langley 2 Adams Close Stanwick, Wellingborough NN9 6TQ England 01933 625246 011 44 1933 625246 (from USA) kim@zerubbabel.org seed of her husband, a temple indwelt by its God. Our human selves never were self-operating or self-relying, but *only* express and reproduce the products of our owner.

I saw that my "I" which was crucified with Christ was my "I" that was expressing its owner and operator. My "I" had been the expresser of that false "god of this world" and "spirit of error," which works in all the children of disobe-

My "I" had been the expresser of that false "god of this world" and "spirit of error," which works in all the children of disobedience (all of us while unsaved). So when Paul says that I am crucified with Christ, he means that my "I" went into death and resurrection with my Intercessor Savior, who was "made sin" as me on Calvary (2 Cor. 5:21)1. In His death I am freed forever from the false spirit of error indweller; and by His resurrection I am now occupied, when I have responding faith, by the Spirit of Truth as fixed, eternal, total Indweller.

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What is so radical, and meets with so much questioning and opposition as even heretical, is that my crucified "I" is the very same "I" that now lives. The difference is not and never was in the human "I" container, but wholly in the deity-Spirit in possession of my "I." But that is hard to recognize and accept because of the false concept of my "I" being independent and self-operating.

Really, we have been run since the Fall by that false Satan deity (Rev. 12:9).<sup>2</sup> Agonizingly, that includes much of the lives of all of us new-born ones, until through sheer desperation we have moved in by faith from our first saved and justified relationship to our real reality of now being indwelt vessels by our Christ-Indweller. Only by His body-death did He cast out forever the false indweller. So it never was a *change* in our beautiful God-created "I" with its great potential, but only an *exchange* of who is operating our "I."

That then brings me to the problem of resistance from my fellow believers, who have known themselves as Satanstained by their sins. While caught in that lie of a seemingly self-acting self which they think can pray more, resolve more, try more, be better, etc., they are horrified and regard as dangerous heresy the total giving up of their "duties" in self-activity. But at last they must come to what Paul did by much travail: the plain given face of the human self *never having been self-operating*. And then they can realize that human self-relying activity through past years actually has been the "error

1 2 Corinthians 5:21: "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."
2 Revelation 12:9: "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceive the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."

spirit," with his nature of self-for-self *appearing as them.* 

When I am at last exhausted enough by the failure of my self-effort, as was Paul in Romans Seven, I am ready and conditioned to recognize with great relief and daring faith that I have "died" to this long-accepted concept of being selfoperating. By faith I see that my false owner and Satan-sin-operator, with his nature of self-for-self, has been *replaced* forever by my True Owner, with His nature of self-for-others.

As in Romans 8:1-2,<sup>3</sup> I can now *accept myself* with all my human faculties as permanently operated by, expressing and manifesting my Christ-Indweller in His self-for-others nature. I *go free*. Then delightedly I find myself a willing slave-servant to Him who gets busy giving me my intercessory life's opportunities of being Himself-for-others by me. All who will receive can find and know that they too are Christ-I in place of Satan-I, and never were the delusion of being just an I-I!

#### **The Radical Core**

There is not a new word in what we are saying—not a sentence for which we cannot present Bible authority and not a thing new to take to any born-again believer. All we do is tell our fellow-redeemed who they *really and already are!* 

When any say, "So you think you are holier than us [really than we believe ourselves to be] or regard yourselves as The Elite," we say, "Yes, but that is just what you are also!" Can you be more holy than a walking Christ in your human form, which you are when you recognize who you are by the obedience of faith in His declared word? Can you be more elite than "now are we the sons of God" (John 3:2)?

But what is the radical spot which causes us to talk of "total truth"? Simply put, it is that there is no such thing as independent self in the universe. There is only One: "Besides Me there is no other" (Isa. 45:5). All creation is derivative,

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operating by God's creative life in some basic form in it. And so all men, made in His image, naturally (except as hindered by unbelief) express by their created selfhood Him, their Creator.

We humans have our wonderful being as selves "in Him" (Acts 17:28)<sup>4</sup>;

6 1 John 3:4: "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."

# Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this magazine is to further the great high calling of the Lord Jesus to carry His Gospel to the whole world. This calling is known in the Christian world as the Great Commission. Our interpretation of the Gospel is that Jesus Christ is the second member of the Trinity, fully God, made manifest in the flesh. He was tempted in all points as we are, but totally without sin. He was crucified for the sins of the world, was buried, and rose from the dead on the third day, according to the Scriptures. He gives the power to become the sons of God to all who receive Him.

Beyond this forgiveness of sins, *The Intercessor* is committed to proclaiming to every creature the mystery of the Gospel, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory (Col. 1:27). The outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Church at Pentecost means that Christ has joined Himself to us as one spirit (I Cor. 6:17). Thus we see that Christ has reproduced Himself in our flesh, and we Christians are really Christ living as us (Gal. 2:20).

Therefore, there is not only the forgiveness of sins but also a life in Christ of knowing we are dead to sin (Rom. 6). Furthermore, we are dead to the Law (Rom. 7), since the power of sin is through the Law. Christ is the only Lawkeeper (Rom. 8), and there is no independent human nature that can keep the Law, though we are continually tempted to believe so.

Belief in an independent human nature is Satan's lie and the root of sin. Non-Christians are really Satan-indwelt, expressing his lusts (John 8:44), just as we have come to learn that Christians are Christ-indwelt, expressing His righteousness (2 Cor. 6:16). Humans have no moral nature of their own, meaning that we are simply expressions of the indwelling deity nature, either of Christ or Satan (the fallen created being who is the spirit of error). Sin in a Christian is a result of believing again Satan's lie that there is a human nature which can do good or evil.

Our full restoration, then, is to see ourselves as Christ in the world and to labor and travail to see Christ formed in others according to the mighty working of the Spirit. This is "intercession," the definite laying down of our lives to present every man perfect in Christ (Col. 1:28). *The Intercessor* is committed to this great and thrilling commission, the cost of bringing it about, and the resurrection joy of reaping the harvest!

<sup>3</sup> Romans 8:1-2: "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

<sup>4</sup> Acts 17:28: "For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

<sup>5 2</sup> Pet. 1:4: "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

but the nature that is being expressed is His, not ours (2 Pet. 1:4)<sup>5</sup>. But because consciousness necessarily comes through the fact and knowledge of opposites, the one utilizing the other to express itself (like light "swallowing up" dark), so there came into existence this false "god" with the opposite nature to the One Living God, and having the deceived imagination that he is an independent self. That is what sin *is* (1 John 3:4)<sup>6</sup>.

This was also that we might know the false opposite, since through the Fall we have been deceived by Satan as if we were independent selves, having received his spirit of error into ourselves to express his self-for-self nature as us. The Last Adam—God's own Son taking flesh as us—removed that spirit of error from us by His death and resurrection as us (2 Cor. 5:14<sup>7</sup>, 21<sup>8</sup>; Rom. 6:19<sup>9</sup>), so that the deceiving spirit is replaced by the Spirit of Truth expressing His other-love nature as us.

The snag and snare is that by Satan's deceit we humans think we are independent selves with a self-operating nature of our own. This has to be, so we learn once for all that lying deceit of being independent. The reason Romans Seven appears to be such a difficult chapter is that the final depth of this revelation is found there.

Through conditioning we have to become desperate enough to see through and discard the one thing we humans cling to: that deceived idea that we have a nature of our own and run our own lives. Only then can we settle into the wonder of the old Satan-nature which he expressed as us (Rom. 6:21<sup>10</sup>; 7:5<sup>11</sup>) being now replaced forever by the glory of Christ, our "True Vine" expressing His True-Vine nature by us the branches (Rom. 6:22).<sup>12</sup>

Thus we move fixedly into the glory of the affirmation of Romans 8:2<sup>13</sup> and its spontaneous consequences in verses 14 through 16 and onward through the whole chapter.

So it is the fact of our having no human nature, but self only being an expresser of the deity-spirit nature (formerly the false and now the true one) and our claiming this to be Biblically true, that makes our "total truth" so radical. *It leaves no more room for human self-activity*, except as expression of deity.

Here is where we have to ask where are the preachers or the writers of spiritual books who make this radical fact *the fact, and thus give no more room for exhortations to self-betterment?* Actually, all the commands of the Scripture have become automatic action: "Of course, that is how we live," because it is He fulfilling "the righteousness of the law in us!" "Oh, how I love thy law!" (Rom. 8:4<sup>14</sup>, Ps. 119:97).<sup>15</sup>

Why can few pastors accept this truth in its reality? Because it exchanges pastoral management of the flock for direct management by the Chief Shepherd, and the pastors leading the sheep to His direct leadership. Why will all believers start by opposing and resenting this radical reality? It is because we live under the delusion of being selfoperating selves merely helped by the Spirit, until that final delusion is exposed in Romans Seven and replaced in Romans Eight.

How truly George Muller, the father of all present-day faith movements, once said, "There was a day on which I died!" And there's no other way but that such a day comes in all our lives. But we fight and resist until at last we "see" it.

# God Restored Truth for Our Generation

Though our Total Truth reality is radical at its core, we see it as God's restored truth for our generation. We have nothing less than a worldwide, churchwide commission to every believer. And in each issue of our *Intercessor* magazine we make the plain statement.

*The Intercessor* (sent freely on request by our editors) continually puts this Total Truth in all its articles. Such books as *Yes, I Am* and other publications and audio listed in the magazine also offer the truth. In increasing numbers— by literature, by personal visits, by week-end fellowships and conferences—we are a "rising army" of co-knowers, witnesses and teacher-sharers, until that great day when "the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea" (Isa. 11:9).

But right now we are relatively few,

9 Rom. 6:19: "I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness."

15 Psalm 119:97: "O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day."

<sup>7 2</sup> Cor. 5:14: "For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:"

<sup>8 2</sup> Cor. 5:21: "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

<sup>10</sup> Rom. 6:21: "What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death."

<sup>11</sup> Rom. 7:5: "For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death."

<sup>12</sup> Rom. 6:22: "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life."

<sup>13</sup> Rom. 8:2: "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

<sup>14</sup> Rom. 8:4: "That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

although regretfully so and quickly embracing all who show signs of being co-knowers. Of course, the great mystics of the centuries "knew" by the Spirit and gloriously said so. The supremest, who not only knew but had the wisdom of God in putting his knowing into words, was Jacob Boehme, interpreted in English by William Law. But many others "knew," and some of us have long drunk from them.

There are thousands, including increasing numbers today, who do "know" much, and often live the liberated lives of the "knowers." Still, our calling is like Paul, to present what we see to be the full Bible-revealed basis to a total knowing—the truth of Christ in and as us.

John in his First Epistle repeated it over and over again. We are in the light, as He is in the light (1:7). We walk as He walked (2:6). We know as He knows (2:27). We live holy lives, as He lived (3:7). We love as He loves (4:16). We have a faith that becomes inner knowing as He has (5:4, 5, 18-20). And summed up, "As He is, so are we in this world" (4:17), for the very same Spirit who caused Jesus to know and say who He was (John 14:9) now causes us to know who we are (Rom. 8:11<sup>16</sup>; John 16:7).<sup>17</sup>

Inner truth was always known through the centuries (read such a book as *The Pilgrim Church* by E.H. Broadbent), but these true ones were consistently martyred by the external church. They were intercessors for us and did the dying. Now in our generation it is not physical martyrdom and cutting off of heads for most of us, but plenty of cutting off of our reputations as sound or sensible Christians. So we are left physically free to go to the whole Church in the whole world.

Now I reach my summit—at least I suppose so, at 95 years—and a last glorious participation in an "intercession in action." Certainly it is the greatest for me because God, and only God, has brought this worldwide, churchwide commission into being without my having given one thought or plan for it. And as I go to my Lord, I leave behind nothing less than the first sproutings—precious believers knowing who they already are—of a worldwide harvest.

My one hope is that we, who are linked in this co-knowing, remain as structureless as possible. Being joined to One Body only, the precious redeemed Body of Christ, we have no need for membership, joining or official subscribing. We know only one truth: Christ Himself now living His own life in millions of bodies by the Spirit, until "we all come in the unity of the faith," in understanding as well as a present Spirit-oneness, to that Perfect Man of Ephesians 4:13.<sup>18</sup>

This last intercession is glorious indeed, but it also includes its very present dying that others may live. There is ostracism and opposition by many, even of the precious people of God, who remain in this confusion of and clinging to the false independent self. The Spirit has to make us ready for that final and highly dangerous looking death, where it remains *only He* as us. That unpredictable Wind "blows where it lists" in our newborn lives, as I can plainly see in the marvelous unplanned events of just my own life. You may also see where the Spirit has already gained intercessions by you in your own experiences; and you will thus be alive to the glory of such further intercessions, with their commission, cost and completion. Read my booklet *Intercession in Action*, available at www.zerubbabel.org or by calling 828-295-7982.

The death-resurrection principle of intercession (see John 12:24)<sup>19</sup> as the highest of our earthly callings is still known and entered into by only a few of the redeemed members of the Body of Christ. Plainly enough, though, Paul gave us his own experience in Romans 6-8. As he found so painfully and with difficulty in his Romans Seven travail, the "death" of that lie of our being independent selves comes to those of us who will stop at nothing in going what he called that perfect way of Christ as us.

But as we move in by the bold choice of faith (as by the affirmation of Galatians 2:20),<sup>20</sup> the Spirit will bring us that same light of revelation which Paul had. Inwardly we will "see" our wonderful God-made human selves as solely expressers of His Spirit of Truth in place of that false spirit of error. And we will settle into our true God-ordained condition, as out from us flows the river of the Spirit, as in John 7:37-38.<sup>21</sup> Nothing then can stop us from joining what Peter calls "the royal priesthood" of intercessors, with

16 Rom. 8:11: "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

17 John 16:7: "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you."

18 Eph. 4:13: "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."

19 John 12:24: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit."

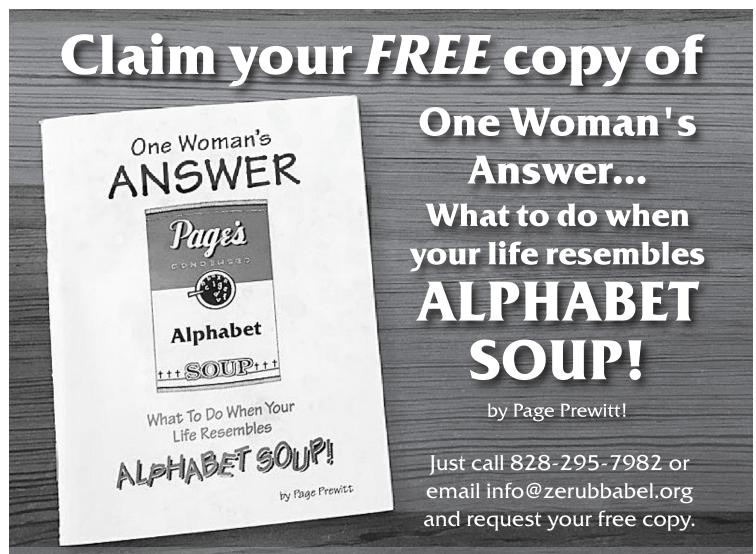
- 20 Gal. 2:20: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."
- 21 John 7:37-38: "In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."

"death working in us, but life in others."

For many years after his retirement as General Secretary of the Worldwide Evangelization Crusade, Norman Grubb traveled extensively sharing the truth of our union with Christ. He was the author of many books and pamphlets, a number of which are available through the Zerubbabel Book Ministry. Norman P. Grubb entered the Kingdom at 98 years of age.

# Editor's Note

This issue of *The Intercessor* has a special focus on the foundational Biblical truth—earth shattering, life-changing and indeed controversial—that we are NOT independent, self-operating selves. Satan himself created this lie of independence. He embraced the lie in his own fall, he successfully tempted Adam and Eve with it at their fall, and he continues to deceive nearly all of humanity (including most Christians) with it to this day. You may have heard it said that the greatest trick the devil ever pulled was convincing the world he doesn't exist. It's a catchy phrase with a grain of truth, but in fact the devil's greatest trick is convincing the world that they are independent, self-operating selves. And this issue of *The Intercessor* exposes that lie and points the way to living in the glorious, liberating truth of our reality as mere expressers of God in our union with Christ.



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# Editorial... Why We Are Attacked

by Norman Grubb

Where does the basic conflict lie in the disturbances expressed over my *It's As Simple As This* booklet (this is a booklet condensation of the message presented in *Yes I Am*. It may be ordered through the book ministry listed in the back of *The Intercessor*). It has even been suggested that I am among those seducing Christianity by teaching selfdeification.

The point lies here: even the best of the evangelical Bible and Victorious Life teachers believe in a self-functioning human nature, taken captive by Satan through the Fall. Thus, by our nature we express his sin nature and are "carnal, sold under sin." Through the finished work of Calvary, Christ's nature replaces Satan's, but the emphasis remains upon us to operate and express one of these two natures. There has been the radical change from Satan to Christ, through Calvary, but the responsibility is still laid upon us to do the "abiding" in this exchange. And we are constantly pulled back into responding to that former sin-nature. Therefore, the main emphasis is upon our need to walk watchfully.

But this is a mistaken emphasis. We humans were never created to be self-responsible; we only have the ability of choice as to who will spontaneously express his deity nature by us. There never has been an independent, human, self-operating self. Our main human drive is simply to walk in the spontaneity of the deity nature possessing and operating us. When pulls come from the opposite, now outcast, deity nature, our one response is to recognize those pulls and not be deluded into falsely seeking to combat them as if we are self-operating. We simply affirm in our recognition that He of the New Nature now operates us. In that faith recognition, His nature, as us, swallows up the pulls of the opposite one.

So the issue between us and the great majority

of evangelical Bible believers is in locating the area of responsibility. They put it on us in our humanity as if we are the arbiters, and as we "abide," so we remain free or captives. We, on the other hand, lay the total emphasis on the God who indwells us and expresses His nature by us-the god of this world, or the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. And we maintain that this is the Bible emphasis, the experience of Jesus Himself in His dove baptism, and of Paul, and of all believers after Pentecost whose eyes have been opened to the total truth.

But it is usually named as dangerous "mysticism" by most evangelicals. Our emphasis is not on us as responsible to walk this way, but on Him who is now joined to us in place of that Satan-spirit, the One who walks in us and as us. Our main human activity is the faith recognition that He is so walking in us and as us (1 John 4:17). This is our "suspicious" freedom which is attacked and warned against by all precious Bible believers who see themselves as having an independent human self and so still put their emphasis on human responsibility instead of on Him.

The whole point is that HE who is living His life, in us and as us, spontaneously maintains us in a totally responsible walk of holiness and the "Sermon of the Mount" standards of living. We who see, believe, and experience this total Christ walk as us are totally bold in witnessing to it and expounding its Biblical basis. It seems at present that we must be prepared to be largely outcast from our believing brethren, though there will be increasing numbers of those who become see-ers and knowers by Spirit illumination, and thus equally, totally absorbed in sharing our total truth to the whole body of Christ to whom it belongs.

### **Foreword to Page Prewitt's**



#### Written by Norman Grubb

The obvious meaning of such a title for this booklet as "Alphabet Soup" is that our lives are in some form or other a proper mix-up. Some things you can "spot and select"; lots you can't. Is there such a thing as a life which is a clear, straight line? Don't *all* lives appear to be a mix-up? Is there really the possibility of a straight line?

This is why I think this booklet is a rarity. I like it being totally personal, not a preachment, but the secret of knots tied and untied, and how to have them untied. And Page Prewitt takes us straight through from A to Z in sharing how the knots were unraveled in her own life, and then how to lay the finger on the many knots in every life until they are untied. Page so unmixes the mixed-up soup that we too are enabled to lay our fingers straight on those mix-ups, the reasons for them and the way to unmix them. She keeps it plain by concentrating on her own answer to the secret, showing how others can do the same.

She starts with a page or two on personal salvation and how she herself came clear in receiving Christ as what we call a sinner saved by grace. So the booklet is based on the new birth experience as a given fact, and it is from there onwards that Page handles the mix-up of the soup's ingredients and comes out with the "straight line" which all of us hunger to have and know as the straightness of our own lives. The rest of the booklet then deals with these mix-ups which in various ways tear our lives to pieces and in plain honesty are in capital letters in all lives, which are just as much knotted in those who call themselves Christians as those who do not.

The answer is plain enough in Bible terms, though not so often referred to, and still less often so thoroughly untied. To get that answer we have to unravel what we might call the "self knots" in each of us. The whole weight and value of the booklet is in showing what the knots are and how they get untied, so that we may boldly then lay a finger on those same knots in our brother Christians.

So thoroughly does Page handle this, and with certain simple diagrams, that it would be a tautology for me to take up details in a foreword. Very simply, she focuses on the exact meaning, right interpretation and right uses of the subdivision of the human self which is lightly mentioned in Hebrews 4:12 and 1 Thessalonians 5:23 in three words: spirit, soul and body. What is the self, how do these three parts interact, and how do I get them rightly and fixedly "tied up" so that I can be bold in pointing to that same problem and its solution in nearly all my brethren?

This booklet tells about some of the quite desperate wrestlings Page herself experienced before coming to where, with unhesitating boldness, she can lay a finger on that same knot in you. And just *because* that takes us to the depth of the depths and drastically uncovers hidden areas which the god of the false misuse of self has so cleverly covered over, it is lamentably the fact that the vast majority of declared and born again believers turn back at that spot. There is the same major Cross in it for us as there was

for Jesus himself.

Alphabet Soup puts the most profound truth on this whole vital "spirit, soul and body" problem and its solution in simple terms. And here it is important to take note that there are quite a lot of folks these days who will use a correct term for what we are talking about and yet still not know what that really means. This included Page herself, which *forced* her to find the right and ultimate answer. And you'll find that this little booklet does give that answer. And it is then that at last the soup sort of "unmixes itself," and each item can be both edible and enjoyed.

We have really come to where Page Prewitt probably is the leader over all of us in a thoroughgoing explanation of what is meant by these three terms—what each is and how they properly mingle—so that I can boldly say I am Christ in my form. How that subtle self of ours has at last been torn out of Satan's hold on it since the Fall, and in its place we find what a self in focus is. As James says, "Let patience have her perfect work that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

This account shows precisely the opening of that "secret of secrets" to Page and explains her God-given ability to use her Spirit rapier to pierce camouflages in others, which has caused many to turn away just as they did with Christ, The Self. Page shows our human selves in their ultimate purpose—the eternal relationship for which we were created, then fell from, and now to which we have been redeemed.

So I greatly recommend this booklet to every hungry reader who does want to get the soup umixed and enjoy each particle in its right proportion, and be able boldly to point that fact out to his fellow Christians. If you really want to know the true meaning of who you are as a self—and that's the *only* final meaning to our life's search this booklet can bring great light to you.

# Not we Living, but He

#### By Norman Grubb

It is one thing to know truth by being taught it, by seeing it in the Bible, or by grasping it mentally. That is a right start and we do not despise it; but the reason we stress the second crisis (call it by whatever name we like) is that being inner people, life is lived spontaneously and naturally only by a fixed inner consciousness. We are in outer life what we inwardly know we are. In our former life, before we were Christ's, we had a consciousness, though maybe a vague one, just of being ourselves, and so we lived on our selflevel. Then after we had knowingly become children of God by the witness of the Spirit, we had a new fixed inner consciousness: we were now forgiven, loved, accepted, inheritors of eternal life; we were in living relationship with Jesus and the Father. And without any special effort this had its radical effects on our daily attitudes and actions.

But this was still a gap-consciousness. Here we were, and here was Christ with us or even known as in us.

But that is something different from a full and final union-conciousness that we are He in our human forms: not we living, but He living our lives, as Paul said. And Jesus even said that we are the light of the world, not having the light, but being the light. How could this be on any other basis than an inner unity?—for He is the light, we the negative non-light. Yet here He is saying we are the light!

-Who Am I?

# One Woman's Answer-What To Do When Your Life Resembles Alphabet Soup!

by Page Prewitt

(Continued from the previous issue)

## Part Two

#### **Confusion Between Soul and Spirit**

You are not just spirit and body, however. Your "bugaboos" and your problems and difficulties in life come mainly from the third part of you: your soul. Let me hastily add here, though, that not only do your problems stem from your soul, but also your joys and exhilarations spring from your soul. Your very experience of life on this earth is because you have a soul that operates in full capacity. But until you understand it, the negative capacity of your soul messes up your life so badly that you don't know how to enjoy the positive capacity of your soul. This is because you are jerked around and tossed here and there, not by your soul, but by what the enemy *tells* you about your soul.

Your soul has two capacities. This is vital to know. One capacity of the soul is emotion; the other is reason. You will notice in the word chart that follows that I have written the word *feel* under emotion; and under reason, I have written the word *think*. This is what the soul can do: it can feel and it can think.

The spirit has three capacities. One of these is *desire*, through which we express real love (the Greek agape, the love of God). Our human spirit is also

where, even apart sometimes from mental reasoning and understanding, we *know*. The remaining capacity of the spirit is *will*, which has its fruition in choice. Free choice originates in God, and we, made in His image, are

#### **BODY – House for soul and spirit** "Do you not know that your body is the temple

of the Holy Spirit who lives within you?" (1 Cor. 6:19).

#### SOUL – Emotions and reason

1. Emotior	ns:
	A. Where I feel things: hate, fear, jealousy, lust, shame, etc.
	B. Love: <i>phileo</i> —brotherly love;
	eros—sexual love
2. Reason:	
	A. Ideas
	B. Where I reason or think things out
SPIRIT – D	Desire, will and mind
1. Desire:	
n Desire.	God's agape love. "For God so loved
	the world that He gave His only be- gotten Son" (John 3:16); "Love your
	enemies"
	(Luke 6:27).
2. Will:	
	Choices made here. Sin has its roots here. "Not as I will but as Thou wilt"
	( <i>Mt. 26:39</i> ).
3. Mind:	
	My spirit knowing. "What man
	knoweth the things of a man, save
	the spirit of a man which is in him?"

endowed by our Creator with like freedom of choice.

(1 Cor. 2:11).

#### **Alphabet Soup**

Most people—I could all but say 99% of God's humanity, have spirit and soul

mixed up. Have you ever eaten alphabet soup? It has all those little ABCs in it, but you can't look into that soup and read a single word. It's just a "mix-up." And the ABCs are mixed up with the corn, tomatoes, peas and butterbeans; so if you want something to read and figure out, you won't get much helpful material from alphabet soup.

Most people who look down into themselves to figure out life and to figure out themselves, look down and find alphabet soup! A mess: a total mess. And it is so messed up that even if a word does appear, the meaning to it is not clear!

When people today start trying to "clean up and sort out" their own lives, they have difficulty discerning between the spirit and soul meaning of words. For example, notice that I have placed *desire* in the spirit part of you. Unless you have been schooled in what I am writing about, you would probably think of desire as something that goes on in your emotions or reason.

Let me illustrate this with three very simple sentences:

I am confused. I am jealous. I am afraid.

Why do people make these statements? They make them because they have strong *feelings* of confusion, jealousy or fear; or perhaps all three are coexisting. The snag comes from the enemy, Mr. Satan himself, who does not want you to have an answer. He wants you to stay "mulled up." He even wants you to keep on trying to work it out, for his object is to keep you under his control, and this is how he operates to accomplish that aim.

As you try to work through these feelings, think them through or even talk to someone about them (me, for example), what you want to talk about, think about and work through, is the confusion. If in talking to me, I say to you, "But that is not the point," then to your confusion and frustration, anger is added and you then say to me, "You are not listening! You are not hearing me!" What you want to do is tell me just one more time how confused you are, and you even want to elaborate on your confusion.

Let me tell you something from my own experience. Some years back I was involved in a group under the direction of a trained clinical psychologist who was also a believer, with a Ph.D. in his field. I had an identical encounter to the one I have imagined between you and me. When I said to this group, "You are not hearing me," the doctor made this point. He said, "Page, they *are* hearing you. And you have to 'tell it just one more time.' What is happening is that they are not *agreeing* with you."

Now you may think that if you can tell it just one more time, I will not only understand you, but also agree with you. So when you are talking to me or to anyone in actual life encounters, and you think we are not listening, and your confusion then leads to frustration and anger, know this: we hear you; we understand; we just don't agree.

The enemy wants to keep your focus

on the confusion, the frustration and the anger. Satan wants to keep you working on that and "build his case" around that. Why? Because as long as you work on the confusion (or the fear, jealousy or what have you), you will never get the solution to the problem. You will be just tying the knot tighter.

The enemy knows that once you see the root of the problem, he will have one less place where he can tempt you, or even go beyond tempting you and get you to fall for the temptation and finally sin. He does not want you to see the answer to this dilemma.

This is the problem. When you keep telling me about your confusion, what you are really talking about is "you alone" being a confused person. The enemy steps right up, picks up your feeling of confusion and says, "Look at you! See what you feel. You *are* confused." If you are not keen and are not experienced in this, you just repeat to him what he says. You say in agreement, "I *am* confused." The simple solution to the problem is this: you take your personal pronoun *I* and correct it to read *Christ-I*, for as a Christian, that is who you really are (Gal. 2:20).

Notice how I have altered the sentence below:

"Christ-I feels confused."

Can you remember in grade school how pupils filled in the blanks of their grammar workbooks from a choice of words that were in a parenthesis? They would complete the sentence with the correct word. That is just like what we are doing here. You add before the *I* the word *Christ*, and form the new pronoun *Christ-I*. That pronoun now becomes the subject of your sentence. Not an "alone-I" as you had before, not a "just you," and also not a "just Christ." Now see how I have written, "Christ-I feels confused." It is true that "Christalone" does not feel confused. But He has pleased Himself to take up residence in and indwell me, and as many confirming passages in the book of Hebrews point out, He is pleased to undergo our temptations with us. Therefore, though He himself alone neither is confused nor feels confused, He willingly subjects Himself to "refeel" those feelings in you—yes, as you.

What you feel is a part of your soul and not a part of your spirit. *It is all right to feel anything you feel.* You are supposed to feel anything you feel—the "good" list, the "bad" list, the "indifferent" list.

What you feel does not touch your spirit because the spirit part of you is the part that never changes. Spirit is the same yesterday, today and forever. It is a separate, distinct thing and never becomes anything that you express in and through your soul.

Therefore, I can legitimately say from a "Christ-I consciousness" that I *feel* confused. Or afraid, or tired, or out-of-sorts. I can even say, "I feel like I hate her."

#### **Feelings Are Neutral**

Many people think good feelings come from God and bad feelings come from Satan. If they feel good, they rejoice. If they feel bad, they think Satan has climbed over the wall, so to speak, taken their "members" captive (Rom. 7:5, 23), and that something "bad" is going on. But that is not true.

Interpreting feelings like that can immobilize a believer, for feelings are a neutral part of our humanity. God does not have feelings. People sometimes don't like to hear that, but God is the same all the time. His love and His actions are not dependent on fluctuating feelings.

When your feelings rise up out of your humanity, they are neutral. In a sense, feelings are independent. This independence (though we may deny it) signifies the inability to act, to go into action. This, feelings cannot accomplish.

Feelings are merely impulse receivers. Years ago in Florida I had a high school chemistry lab, and on the professor's desk one day was a dead chicken leg. We took an electrode and touched the muscle of that dead chicken. Guess what happened? It jumped! Now do you think anybody in that class in their wildest imagination expected that chicken leg to walk off that guy's desk from that impulse? The answer is no-NO!

So now when feelings, thoughts and ideas rise up in you, see the neutrality of them and the inability of those feelings to go anywhere or do anything. Even though the chicken leg received a shock and reacted, it wasn't going anywhere.

There is nothing wrong, when you have come to the knowledge of the truth, in expressing how you feel and what you think. Feelings and thoughts register in our souls, not in our spirits. But we experience these feelings and reasonings as integrated persons.

I mentioned before how even after it was established in my mind that I truly was a re-expression of Jesus Christ, there was still a missing link. It was still a puzzle to me about how to operate this life that I knew I had. The key was in discovering exactly how the soul, body and spirit function. When I found the distinction between soul and spirit, and when I made the discovery that I had never functioned and never would function as an "independent" person, I had the key that opened this heretofore closed door.

This revelation hinges on the lie that Lucifer, as a created being, fell for, which turned him into Satan. His thought that he could be an independent self is what I can easily describe as original sin. I also believe this wrong believing is the root of every sin known to mankind. I call it the "lie of independent self."

#### The Real Problem: Satan's Lie

If you have been seeing yourself as an "independent" person and acted from that belief, realize that you have gone for Satan's lie about the believer. You have gone for Satan's lie about yourself. God only sees union with Himself; Satan sees and sponsors this divided outlook. This is the sin of unbelief unbelief about who God says you really are.

God has said that He that is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him (1 Cor. 6:17). He has also said that He is the vine and believers are the branches. He is their owner, and believers are His bondslaves. He is the deity placed in the temple. We, the believers, are the temple to manifest and display Him. He is the husband, furnishing the seed to the productive wife. Believers are the wife, wedded to this One. He is the treasure, and we, the believers, are the vessels that contain Him.

The branch, the vessel, the temple, the wife...all are dependent. The branch is dependent upon the vine, the vessel upon the contents, the temple upon the deity, and the wife upon the husband.

The analogy of the owner and the slave shows that the master is the one who owns the slave, and as in Romans 6:17, the slave is never his own owner or his own operator. So, if you are a believer, to even "see" yourself as an "alone-I" who has the ability to operate himself—even that seeing is sin. The Scripture says when we find sin present with us, to confess it. So the remedy is just to confess it. Call it sin and confess it. By confession I don't mean "sackcloth and ashes." Confession is no more than agreeing with God. It's as if God says, "Look what you have been doing. You have let the enemy get you confused and mixed up. See it. Confess it." It's as simple as that.

The worst sin you will ever find out you have committed is the sin of wrong believing about yourself. And in doing that, you have allowed Satan to misuse you. That is what is wrong with every non-redeemed person, and with every born-again person who commits sins, minor or major—small ones that just "mess up" your life or blatant Biblical sins. Serious sins like theft, murder and adultery always stem from wrong seeing about ourselves as believers.

The result of living like this is not a life of sin-consciousness, but a life of true liberation. Bondage lies in wrong believing...to not see yourself as who you really are, one with Him. Wrong believing about yourself will immobilize you.

Wrong believing about yourself can cause conflict in a marriage, in the work place, with your children and in other situations. Satan, in your "independent self" believing, manages to get his hooks into your "members." The Bible talks of believers in these terms: "sin in my members" (Rom. 7:23). "Members" means your soul and body (your "flesh") and not your spirit. Satan gets his hook in there and *he* is the confusion. He is the cause of the confusion. I'm not talking about the *feeling* of confusion I discussed earlier, but the confusion that results from the conflicts caused by wrong believing.

#### **A Practical Example**

Let me give you an example of how something seemingly small and insignificant in your life can be completely immobilizing to you. This past summer when my husband and I were in North Carolina, his car needed washing. Being in a very small resort center, there was no automatic wash place like I am used to back home. The place I took the car to was one of those where you plug the money and squirt off your own car. The coin slot was one of those flat things you lay quarters in and then slide in, where some mechanism picks up the change and then deposits it, and then you have access to the hoses and water.

I put in the required three quarters and the machine only took two of them; the others were left in the slot. Of course it would not operate without the full amount, and I did not have another quarter. The way the machine is made, there is a small hole beneath the quarters. So I decided to reach in and just pop my quarter out. Well, I got my quarter, but my finger got stuck. It was the same kind of situation as when you're having trouble getting a ring off.

I said to myself, "This will come out in just a second." But then I realized my finger was *not* coming out. It was stuck! You know sometimes you can get a stick caught underneath your automobile, and if you pull hard, you can just jerk it out? So I thought, "Just jerk it out. It doesn't matter if it hurts a little." Then I re-thought: *"That is your human finger! You can't just jerk it out!"* 

I could not go anywhere to get help. Nothing but the tip of my finger was caught and yet I could go nowhere. I was immobilized. All kinds of redeeming thoughts went through my mind: "If only I had some soap; there's a restaurant nearby—I can scream and maybe they'II hear; maybe someone else will come in for a car wash."

Finally, I said very meaningfully, "God you have got to get my finger out." I gave a soft jerk, and out it came. Later that week I realized what a great illustration this was of how one little sin thing in my life can completely immobilize me.

#### So In Conclusion

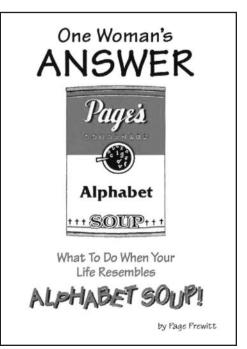
If you are a believer, the Spirit in you is going on all the time—knowing, loving and willing. What you are thinking and feeling is also going on simultaneously in your soul. *Make the distinction between these two*. And never deny your feelings; that will make you psychologically sick. But realize that you are not your soul. You, at your center, are spirit—one with the Lord and Creator of the universe.

Yes there are times when I look around—at others amid perplexing situations, or even within myself and all I see for a moment is "alphabet soup." But, this does not occur often. When it does, I retrace my steps to see where unbelief entered.

Sometimes this takes only a moment or two. Once in my experience, it took several months, and I spent those days in what I now call my "black hole" of unbelief.

But on that occasion and on less serious ones now, I check myself by claiming that I am Christ in my form, that I am an expression of the Living Savior. I acknowledge to myself that I today live, not as the illusory "independent Page," but as "Christ-Page." I step out of unbelief into faith. And, as by His grace, through my faith I was originally saved, I continue to walk out this Christian life in the same way. I will not be like those "foolish Galatians," who resisted the truth of what Paul wrote to them. Instead, I acknowledge that I have been crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live, yet not I (Page-alone) but Christ lives in me (Christ-Page), and the life I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

So my life is no longer a confused bowl of "alphabet soup"! Just the oppositemy life has meaning, purpose and joy.



# A Look at a Book

by Marian Kinahan

BOOK REVIEW: One Woman's Answer: What To Do When Your Life Resembles Alphabet Soup

#### **By Page Prewitt**

"Is there such a thing as a life which is a clear, straight line? Don't all lives appear to be a mix up? Is there really a possibility of a straight line?" These questions posed by Norman Grubb in the foreword to "Alphabet Soup" brought to my mind the verses, "a double-minded man is unstable in all his ways" and, "for he that doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind" (James 1:6-8). Until we see with the "single eye"—see through to the spirit dimension, we will continue to be pulled in different directions.

When I was first saved, a verse that meant a lot to me was "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Rom. 12:2). I was born again—born of the spirit of God and so now should live according to that spirit. But how do we do this in our daily lives when, as Norman Grubb so aptly states in his forward to this book, "our lives in one form or another are a proper mix-up"?

"Alphabet Soup," a booklet by Page Prewitt, addresses these key spirit truths step by step and builds a clear picture as one would piece together a jigsaw puzzle. She shares her personal life experiences and how she found answers. We need to know who we were before we were born again and understand the change that was wrought in us through our new birth. We need to know the truth about the spirit reality because that's all the reality there is.

Using diagrams backed up by scripture, Page illustrates the spirit change through which we become a new creation indwelt by a new deity—Jesus Christ. Whereas before our new birth we were children of disobedience and we "walked according to the prince of the power of the air" (Eph. 2:2); after our new birth the Bible tells us, "Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you?" (1 Cor. 6:19.)

With simple illustrations, Page discusses our human make-up: body, soul, and spirit. People have difficulty discerning between the soul (thoughts and feelings) and spirit. Feelings of fear, jealousy, etc., lead us to believe that we are those feelings, and Satan would have us stay forever trying to figure these out and change them. However, Page makes it clear that feelings are neutral and go on naturally because of our humanity. We need to acknowledge them and make the distinction between feelings and spirit-reality so as not to live from them but from the truth of the word of God.

Who we are does not depend on our feelings but on which spirit lives in us. There is no independent "I." We are either "of our father the devil" or, Christ in our form: "I no longer live, but Christ lives in me" (Gal. 2:20). Satan would have us believe that there is an independent self, but God calls us to believe who He says we are.

Page's excellent use of diagrams and practical examples from her own life take us through the confusion of an alphabet soup to clarity and a renewed mind. As Norman says, we should be see "through-ers" and not see "at-ers."

Since I first took hold of the teaching shared by Page in this booklet, my life has been truly transformed. I now know that reality is the spirit reality and I believe that what God says about me is true.

So if you are looking down into a mess of "gcbedbdefdae" soup, take a moment—even right now—to pick up this little book and open your mind to the revelation of "Christ in you, the hope of glory."

Get a FREE copy by calling 828-295-7982 or email info@zerubbabel.org.

Faith is not looking for a future revelation, it is realizing a present fact. Faith slips from its moorings when it listens to another's experiences and says to itself: "I suppose God must come to me like that." Usually God comes in the way and at the time that we least expect." –The Law of Faith Life is surely based on receptivity, and the Bible word for receptivity is faith. Can anything be simpler? How wonderfully God has made us: to live, spiritually and materially, by exercising a capacity which is as near as possible to doing nothing—just receiving. -God Unlimited

The first essential for us to grasp is that no created being has the life in himself. Creatures are created to contain the life, not to be it in themselves: the essence of idolatry is to claim to be what only God is.

#### -The Deep Things of God

. . . . . . . . .

Life is never found by searching for or possessing things. Life is a Person, and is only found in living relationship with the Person.

-The Liberating Secret

It may sound extreme, it may not even be all the truth (in the sense that we also are persons), but once and for all I had to get out of my system that ultimate life is I alongside God, God alongside me. No. Life is just GOD. Not God first, but God only.

-God Unlimited



By Norman Grubb

As with Paul, so now our proclamation of the Gospel "once delivered to the saints" is open to misinterpretation.

Paul acknowledged one such problem: "As we be slanderously reported, and some affirm that we say, 'Let us do evil that good may come.'" We also have questions such as: "If we are expressers of Christ, like branch to vine, who then sins?" and, "Do we still sin?"

### The "Who" and the "When" of Sin

The answer is the simple fact that our relationship is a union (1 Cor. 6:17).<sup>1</sup> The human spirit, which is our human "I am," with soul and body as clothing (Heb. 4:12),<sup>2</sup> is created free, as is God Himself. While in this Satan-filled world (1 John 5:19),<sup>3</sup> we are wide open to continuous solicitation to forget our Christ-union (2 Pet. 1:9).<sup>4</sup> In a forgetfulness of that union, we can be drawn back by temptation (James 1:14)<sup>5</sup> through our soulbody faculties (flesh), into the lie of independent self.

We may imagine that our human "I" could resist the temptation. That at once puts us back into the bluff of Satan's power in the form of a deceived independent self, which is really his self-for-self. Then we may vainly struggle, as the law (to which we have become dead in Christ—Rom. 7:4<sup>6</sup>) again gets at us. We are certainly under condemnation (from which we have been permanently freed—Rom. 8:1),<sup>7</sup> and probably yield to the temptation. Because there remains a duality at our

inner spirit center, it is possible for us to exercise free choice and choose sin. We have been caught into that temporary adultery of James 4:4<sup>8</sup> and 1:15<sup>9</sup>—an "adultery" which is a temporary "affair" in modern terms, but not a broken Christ-marriage. And then we return by the grace route of 1 John 1:9.<sup>10</sup> We confess (admit) our sin to God and receive the blessed reality of forgiveness through Christ: the removal of even any sense of guilt. We are not only forgiven, but "cleansed from all unrighteousness."

### We Retain Freedom

So, when we come to know who we are—Christ in us and as us, i.e. Christ in our forms—we retain freedom in this tempting world and may temporarily respond negatively from our spirit. (The soul, with its feelings and reasons, is merely the clothing of our spirit, which alone is the real "I.") Thus, our spirit gives any consent, which is the committing of a sin.

This is precisely what confronted Jesus Himself as "Second Man," both in the Mount of Temptation for forty days and all through His human years. There was even a final, desperate pull on Him to escape the Cross: "If it be possible let this cup pass from Me: but not as I will, but as thou willest." So the Scripture says He was "tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin" (Heb. 4:15). Therefore, temptation and trials of all kinds are not sin and do continue constantly in our

1 1 Cor. 6:16: "But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit."

<sup>2</sup> Heb. 4:12: "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

<sup>3 1</sup> John 5:19: "And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness."

<sup>4 2</sup> Peter 1:9: "But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins."

<sup>5</sup> James 1:14: "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed."

<sup>6</sup> Rom. 7:4: "Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God."

<sup>7</sup> Rom. 8:1: "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

<sup>8</sup> James 4:4: "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

<sup>9</sup> James 1:15: "Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."

<sup>10 1</sup> John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

earthly life. We know that one day temptation will disappear forever (James 1:12).<sup>11</sup> But now we use all such temptations as good practice for the replacement of unbelief by faith (James 1:2, 3<sup>12</sup> and John 20:27-29).<sup>13</sup> There is no condemnation in temptation, any more than there was with our perfect Jesus.

Sin, though occasional with us, is possible and actual when we give deliberate consent to temptation from our Spirit-I center. But then, thank God, if there is sinning, there is cleansing.

### Evil: Outcome of Free Choice

Another misunderstanding grows out of our bold statement, on full Biblical authority, that God "means" evil. Illustrations may be found in Gen. 50:20,<sup>14</sup> Acts 2:23<sup>15</sup> and 4:27, 28<sup>16</sup> and many other like passages. Romans 9, until fully understood with the following tenth chapter, raises the same kind of question. What we mean, of course, is that evil is a misuse of the self, which stands between its two potentials (as with the two trees in the garden of Eden).

God, in His eternal freedom, desired and eternally brought into being His only-begotten Son. Thus, His Personhood became the expression of total other-love, in place of self-love. When Paul said in Titus 1:2<sup>17</sup> that God cannot lie, he shed light on what it means to be totally for others.

So then, God created us as persons, like Himself. And we can be persons only by freely yielding ourselves as expressers, either of that self-for-self nature which He never was, or of that self-for-others nature which He eternally IS. Lucifer-Satan, who chose to be a self-forself, took possession of all of us humans with his fallen nature, by the free choice of our first parents (Adam and Eve).

Therefore, God "determines" what freedom produces, first in Lucifer, and then in us (as indwelt by Lucifer), and He "means" the effects. In His foreknowledge, God knows which way we will go; but He never touches our freedom of choosing the way.

Thus, Scripture says that God "hardened Pharaoh's heart" (Rom 9:17, 18), for the hardening was the inevitable effect of Pharaoh's persistent free choice. Negative choosing must also lead to damnation for those who reject all appeals of grace and continue to "love darkness rather than light, for their deeds are evil" (John 3:19).

But, in His foreknowing (as in 1 Peter 1:12-21),<sup>18</sup> God turns the disastrous effects of man's negative self-forself effort choices into manifestations of His redeeming grace for all who respond by faith. He uses the evil for a greater manifestation of good, by which "death is swallowed up in victory" (1 Cor. 15:54). This is true for all who respond to His love pressures on them to believe Him in every circumstance. These do not continue in the one and only final sin of unbelief (John 16:9).<sup>19</sup>

Therefore, in no sense does God's "meaning" evil indicate that He is responsible for it, beyond the fact that it is the necessary outcome of the choice of opposites, which is inherent in free personhood—God's and man's.

11 James 1:12: "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."

17 Titus 1:2: "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;"

19 John 16:9: "Of sin, because they believe not on me;"

<sup>12</sup> James 1:2-3: "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience."

<sup>13</sup> John 20:27-29: "Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

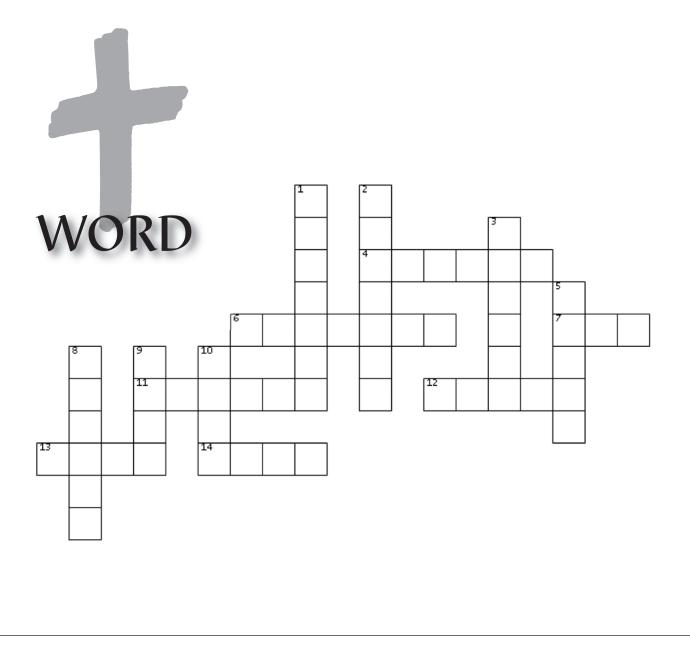
<sup>14</sup> Gen. 50:20: "But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive." 15 Acts 2:23: "Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:" 16 Acts 4:27-28: "For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done."

<sup>18 1</sup> Pet. 1:12-21: "Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into. Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear: For as much as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God."

# TOTAL TRUTH

"Christ lives in us." That is truth. "Christ lives as us." That is total truth.

This edition of *The Intercessor* is extremely critical as it differentiates between the message most of us as believers know from Scripture and the revelation of Paul's, (and Norman Grubb's) of that mystery "once hidden, now made manifest to his saints." As you work this puzzle, you will search through the scriptures that reveal the total truth that we never live as independent self-operating selves, neither before or after being born-again, and that Jesus Christ lives His full and perfect life in and as us. Praise the Lord!



## Across

**4.** Ephesians 2:2 lays bare the truth that as unbelievers, Satan's spirit worked in us, "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the \_\_\_\_\_\_ that now worketh in the children of disobedience."

6. John 15:5 reveals that we are the branches that Christ's vine life produces fruit through, "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that \_\_\_\_\_\_ in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."
7. 1 Corinthians 6:17 explains that we as believers have become one with Christ, "he that is joined unto the Lord is

spirit."

**11.** Romans 8:11 confesses that, "But if the Spirit of him that \_\_\_\_\_ up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that \_\_\_\_\_ up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

**12.** 2 Corinthians 6:16 proclaims, "for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will \_\_\_\_\_ in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

**13.** Romans 8:1-2 rejoices that, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

**14.** In Genesis 3:4-5, Satan tells his lie of independence from God to Eve, "And the serpent said unto the woman, 'Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your \_\_\_\_\_ shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."

## Down

**1.** Romans 7:4 unveils the truth that we believers are as wives bearing the seed of Christ our Husband, "Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be \_\_\_\_\_\_ to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God."

Colossians 1:26-27 speaks of Paul's revelation of Christ's manifestation in and as us, "the \_\_\_\_\_ which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."
 2 Peter 1:4 displays that it is God's nature we express, "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the \_\_\_\_\_ nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

**5.** 1 John 4:17 gives us the boldness to declare, "Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this \_\_\_\_\_."

**8.** Galatians 2:20 tells us who now lives through our human vessels, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but \_\_\_\_\_\_ liveth 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."

**9.** Romans 6:22 shows that we do as our Master has us do, "But now being made \_\_\_\_\_\_ from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life."

**10.** Isaiah 14:13-14 exposes Satan's independent lie that he tells us, "For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be \_\_\_\_\_ the most High."

# My Personal Discovery of Total Truth

#### by Norman Grubb

It is only in the revelation of Romans 8:1-4 that one is able to say with inner certainty, "*Yes*, *I am*—I am all that I have ever wanted to be: free to be my real self, and to help others to find their true selves." So I will now add my own experience of the necessary preparation for this fresh leap of faith.

I was freed, at the time of my new birth, from the law's condemnation as a sinner; but I thought that I myself, as a redeemed human, still had an obligation to fulfill the law. It was only later that I found I had been totally deceived in this. While, in my redeemed delight in the law, I thought I should be obeying it, Satan kept lyingly claiming his control over me and causing me to fulfill his flesh will.

I had to have one final, radical exposure of the nonsense of my supposed independence. Here is the value of Romans 7:1-6. Through its great light I at last saw I had never been independent. I also saw that until I consciously knew and entered into the reality of the cutoff from my old husband and my marriage to the new, I was "in between"—in an illusory condition of independence—and thus actually under the control of my old husband. So the law completed its work by revealing this illusion to me, and grace revealed the reality of my new marriage. As I moved into that, the law ceased to exist as having an outer claim on me and was now being *inwardly* fulfilled in me. This is why (in 7:7-14) Paul puts such emphasis on the fulfilling through the law of God's purposes for our freedom.

So Paul, with that God-inspired analytical mind of his, now "opens up the whole can of worms" about this delusion of the independent self. In 7:15-23, a passage of self-analysis unequaled anywhere, either in the Scriptures or in other writing, Paul shares in detail his own agonizing battle with his personal responses to indwelling sin, and his own total failure to win the battles. There we hear his cry of despair—"O wretched man that I am!" Then comes his blinding flash of revelation that, while he lived in the delusion of being an independent self, indwelling sin falsely claimed to possess him ("I am carnal, sold under sin"). Then the glory of the revelation of the falsity of this delusion, because the One who had cast out the lying usurper has now replaced him. So indwelling sin is now replaced by the indwelling Christ!

Thus we arrive at the primary purpose of this great chapter-to show us that death to sin (the theme of Romans 6) includes death to law (7:4). Now we see the boon and blessing of outer law (for Paul defends the law as spiritual, holy, just and good-vs. 12). God's law, which looks like an enemy condemning me, is really my friend, for it is the ultimate and necessary means of revealing to me that *self-relying self is an illusion*. Having accomplished this, law now ceases to exist for me! "Ye are become dead to the law." How? Why? Because law came into existence only to reveal my slave relationship to

Satan and sin and to enlighten my mistaken, deluded self. So now, when at last I know by innerknowing that in Christ I am totally cut off from sins, from sin, and from its claims on me-and realize that the indweller is Christ Himself, by the Spirit—then I also know that *my inner Christ is the whole law in spontaneous operation*, and I am totally out of range of the outer law. I am dead to it, and it to me. (It may, though, take some time for me, so used to giving ear to an outer law, to turn my

deaf ear to it.) Now I live, instead, by the inner leadings—which are also compulsions—of *Him who is love*: and this is the fulfilling of the law (Rom. 13:10). I now react to any outer claims on me not by a direct response to those claims but by the confirmation of the Spirit, coupled with the Scriptures (which are always a secure undergirding for those inner confirmations). Dead to sin...dead to the law...the world crucified to me and I to the world...I have crucified the flesh in its excessive forms of infatuations and lusts. *That* is the perfect background to my newly liberated life in Christ.

For me this was simplified long ago in Africa-before I

So I saw that I, as a human, was not to "become something better." I was not to *become*, but to *contain*. That was it! Obviously, if the one I contained was Christ, and He is all, all I needed was to know Him in me as "the all." took the leap into Galatians 2:20—by one moment of radical and very simple revelation. Still under that old, false idea of being an independent self who could and should be improved as a servant of Christ, I had begun to seek for more love that I might identify myself with my brother Africans. I looked for more faith and power, and more deliverance from the normal pressures of the flesh and critical attitudes towards my fellow workers. The surprise I got, which put me on this right

track, came when that simple word "God is love" became new to me. I did not then know that God is all in all, as I do now, and I really thought that God *had* love rather than *is* love, and He could therefore give me a share. But when the Spirit opened my eyes to the fact that God *is* love, then I suddenly saw that love is not some emotion which I might feel and express, but love is a person-in fact *the* Person, when it is *God* who is love. It was as if He was saying to me, "You've got it all wrong. Love is not something I *have* and can pass to you. I *am* that love!" That left me with a question: "Then is there none for me?" And the same query struck me concerning the power for which I was asking-for I became aware of the scripture which says "Christ, the power of God" (1 Cor. 1:24). So power, also, is not a thing but a person—*the* Person—and there is no "special kind" of power which can somehow be *communicated* to us. So again my question: "Well, what about me in my need?"

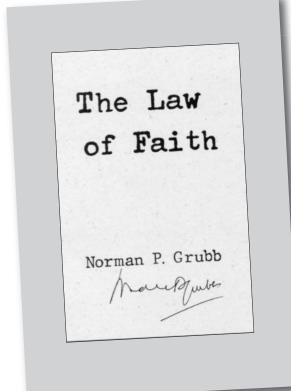
That conditioned me for the opposite end of this revelation. I saw it by the scripture which says "Christ is all, and in all" (Col. 3:11). "Christ is *all*"—that was staggering enough. But then, "and *in all*." So I saw that I, as a human, was not to "become something better." I was not to *become*, but to *contain*. That was it! Obviously, if the one I contained was Christ, and He is all, all I needed was to know Him in me as "the all."

That was my first flash of revelation of the Total Truth God has now so widely opened my eyes to—that we haven't a self-nature to improve or develop. Until then I knew nothing of having been a total Satan-container in my unsaved days, and so knew nothing of now being a total God-container. This was the first revelation of the Spirit (and it *has* to be revealed by the Spirit) that I am just the container. It was the beginning of what has never left me since and has so greatly expanded.

The final illustration that settled me into seeing my proper place as a human was the discovery that several times in the Scriptures we are called "vessels." A vessel is there only to contain. It does not become what it contains. The cup does not become the coffee, nor the coffee the cup. That ray of light shot into me. In other words, God was saying, "Stop fussing about your human self, where you fail and where you need improvement. Drop that whole false idea. Vessels don't improve, they just contain. Now turn your attention away from what you are as a vessel-or think you should be. With a single eye, turn your full attention on Me, the One the vessel contains." That was enough to move me on to my crisis leap—into the reality of Galatians 2:20, which is now my favorite verse of Scripture: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth 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." This was my personal experience of Romans 7, leading me into Romans 8.

-Yes, I Am

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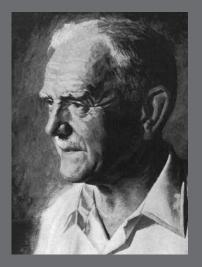
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> – Colossians 1:27-28 (New King James Version)

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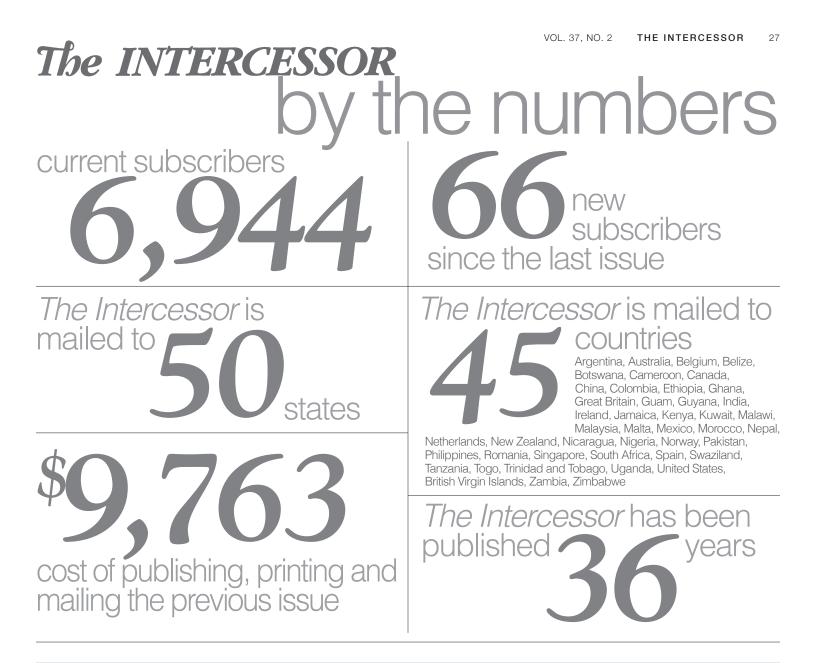
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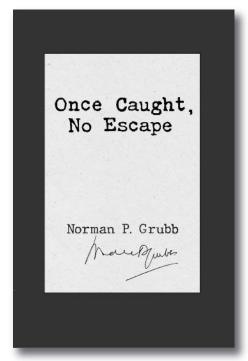
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