

*WHO DO YOU
SAY THAT
I AM?*

**DISCOVERING YOURSELF
IN CHRIST JESUS!**

WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

It is so lovely to discover that we are partakers of a life that was *innocent from the beginning*, a life that never was guilty. Your innocence is not 5 or 10 years old, *but from God's point of view, you have been innocent from the beginning*. So often, we want to measure the strength of our relationships by how long the relationship exists in time. It is so lovely to discover the strength of our relationship in that it was from the beginning. It originated in the eternal past and will remain forever. God wants to overwhelm us with eternity, with the overwhelming *presence of eternity*, with that which is not bound to time. In I Pet.1:21, it says, "Through Him we believe in God who raised Him from the dead, so that our faith and hope might be in God". That word 'in' means 'equivalent to, one and the same as'. According to that, the verse should read, 'that our faith might be the same as God's, equivalent to God's...' We do not believe anything less than what God believes!

We are going to see Jesus from God's point of view. In Matt.16:13-16 Jesus asked, "What do men say about Me? Who do you say that I am?" They answered that some say this and others that. Man can speculate and philosophy as much as he wants to about the identity of Jesus, but Jesus has only one identity, and that is what the Father says about Him! What the Father believes concerning Him, is the truth about His identity. We must look at Him from God's point of view. In seeing His identity, you can discover your own.

In II Cor.2:17 it says, "We speak from God, in the sight of God in Christ." God's point of view of Christ is what

motivates our speaking. We see Christ the way God sees Him, and we are going to give Him the credit for redemption that God gives Him. We are not going to ask Him to do something that He already has done. We have said that our identity determines our purpose and our value. Let us consider the purpose of Jesus and see whether He was successful? While we see His purpose, we will see His identity. Then we can give Him the credit that the Father gives Him. We cannot afford to see anything less in redemption than what God sees in it, because your experience in life is directly related to how you interpret redemption, how you interpret what Jesus has done. Col.1:12 says that He translated us 'out of' and He brought us "into". Redemption is 'out of' and it is 'into', it is a rescue 'out of' and it is a restoration to fullness. The power of your testimony on this earth is not from what you have been redeemed, but to what you have been restored. That is the power of your testimony. My testimony is not, "well I was a drinker and I smoked, but God did something, and look how smart I am now". That is a poor testimony. God wants you to testify about the place you have been restored to, a place of intimacy with God. What is the testimony of Christ? Christ was 100% man and 100% God, but He only lived one life, revealing that the life God lives and the life man lives are absolutely the same life.

In Ps.18:30-32 it says, "that My ways are perfect". Then it says, "I make your way perfect", because we walk the same way. We have been totally united with God. We have His PAST, His PRESENT and His FUTURE. Having His past, we have His *reputation*, having His present, we have His *experience*, and having His future, we have His *expectation*. Having His reputation, we have His **authority**, having His experience, we have His

testimony and having His expectation, we have His **confidence**. We have been completely united. Discover the strength of your fellowship with God in the fact that it has been from the beginning. This fellowship was between the Father and the Son from the beginning. No time was involved then and you were in Christ from the beginning. God never designed redemption as something that was in need of time to add to it. Redemption was final and all-inclusive. Time cannot add to it.

Let us first look at our redemption "out of". Col.2:14-15 - "having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross." The only claim that Satan had, was the guilt of man, and God destroyed that. In I John 3:5 it says, "He has come to destroy sin". Many people still struggle to destroy sin. You cannot do it. Sorry, Christ did it. You cannot destroy sin. In verse 8 it says, "for this purpose, the Son of God was manifested, to destroy the works of the enemy." You cannot destroy the works of the enemy. *You can only realize how completely He has done it.* He came to set the captives free. Is.52:1-2 says, "Awake, awake! Put on your strength o Zion, put on your beautiful garments o Jerusalem, the holy city, for the uncircumcised and the unclean shall no longer come into you." You have nothing that is unclean in you.

We read in Leviticus that if somebody broke their hand, was sweaty or dirty, they could not approach God. *The greatest testimony of our purity before God is the fact that He called us into the fellowship of His Son* - I Cor.1:9. God does not have fellowship with anything unclean.

In Jer.50:20 we read this excellent verse. It says, "in those days and at that time says the Lord, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought, but there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, but they shall not be found." Why? Because it is not there! You have been innocent from the beginning. You are partaking of a life that never was guilty. They can search you for sin but they will not find it, because Jesus was a success. He is not a failure. If He said that He came to destroy the works of the enemy, He did it. He really did it successfully. He was a success! We see His purpose, when we see His identity. It is so lovely discovering the freedom that the desire of the righteous is only good. According to Prov.11:23 "the desire of the righteous is only good."

In our restoration to our original design, it so struck me that God did not make man because He was lonely, but because the fellowship He enjoyed with His Son was so overwhelmingly rich, He had to share it, He had to give. God was not lonely, He was not seeking someone to fulfill Him or perfect Him. Love is perfect. He wanted to give. In John 10:10 it says, "I have come to give you life in abundance". Life is measured by relationship. In Deut.30:19-20, "I place before you life and death, therefore choose life by loving the Lord your God and cleaving to Him, for this means life to you." Life is measured by this fellowship, and He has come to give us life in abundance. Life is not measured by anything outside of you, but by something in you, namely a Person. Christ came to dwell in us, not in principle, but in person.

Again, in John 12:24, it talks about the seed that fell and produced many lives. Christ was not just bragging with

His wonderful testimony. Jesus was not the example for us, but of us. Grain is the only seed that does not mix its genes. Other seeds cross-pollinate, but grain does not mix its genes. The grain that was harvested is exactly the same as the grain that was sown. *We are the exact duplication of His kind.* God has only one kind in mind. He said that He would gather all nations together in one. God has one identity in mind.

Approval means to 'give permission to fulfill a certain purpose'. When God approved us, He gave us permission to fulfill the purpose of being His joy and pleasure. He gave us permission to be His companions, the greatest qualification we could ever have. His favour, His approval, His recognition is only based on your identity. He says in Heb 10:14, "By one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified." Therefore, Jesus brought us "out of", and Jesus restored us "into". *The focus of the New Testament is not your obedience but it is Christ's obedience.* We do not preach the power of your decision, but the power of His decision for you. Redemption at the cross was His decision, and nothing that you decide can change that. Redemption is independent of your appreciation or decision, but it will benefit you immensely if you start appreciating it, because that is when you start experiencing it.

In Chemistry, there are two kinds of reactions. In one of them, you have only one element and you have to add energy all the time. Then there is the other kind, where you only add two elements together and there is spontaneous explosion and release of energy. For years, the church saw the excellent standard of living that the Word revealed, and they tried to attain it by adding energy for some reaction from this revelation. God wants

us to add this ingredient called faith, and when the two are mixed, there is a spontaneous explosion and release of energy. Then your experience is the quality of life of God himself. It is therefore not the energy you add, but your faith mixed together with the Word that brings reaction. It is when we agree that Christ was a success that we experience His success.

You cannot set the captives free... You can only reveal their freedom in Christ. Your experience in life is directly related to how you interpret the purpose of Christ, whether He was successful or not. This Word only reveals one interpretation, one mind, one thought pattern and one faith. In Ps.119, it says, "I hate the double minded man, but I love your law." Why? Because His law reveals only one mind. It is not double minded. Eph 1:9 says, "That He made known according to His good pleasure". It is a pleasure for God to make known, to reveal. God did not intend that we should not understand His wisdom. Why did He give us this Bible if He did not want us to understand? God is committed to our understanding.

The Psalmist says, "The sun praises God, the moon praises God, the stars praise God." How do they do that? I cannot remember the moon doing anything else apart from being the moon. In addition, the sun does not do anything else apart from *being the sun*. In the same way, you cannot praise God in any other way except *being who He made you to be!* That is praise! *Just acknowledge His success in you.* The only thing imperfect about a person is the ignorance of his perfection. Therefore, acknowledge your perfection so that you can give Him praise. I also encourage you to acknowledge His success in one another and to see the

perfection of God's creation. There is nothing to be changed or added to the truth in the spirit.

The power of this gospel is found in its *revealing factor*. This gospel cannot add to what Christ has done, it can only reveal what He has done. Our ministry is making known the fellowship in this ministry, according to Eph.3:8-13. It is making known, revealing. Those two men walking to Emmaus were sad, and Jesus came to them and asked what had happened – Luke 24:13-35. Can you imagine? It was the most exciting day for Christ and God, because they knew the things that had happened, but those people did not know what had happened. They only saw in the natural and so gave Jesus an accurate description of what happened in the natural, *failing to see their inclusion*. When Christ revealed to them their inclusion in what they saw, they suddenly became aware of something in them. "Did not our heart burn within us?" They were no longer conscious of the fact that He was a prophet and that things outside of them were sometimes good, sometimes bad, but they became conscious of something within them, a heart-burning. It is so wonderful that they said, "Did not our (plural), heart (singular), burn within us?" They referred to their first revelation. They had the same heart, the same nature as God.

Just acknowledge His success in one another. Philemon 6 says, "That the communication of your faith may become effective through the acknowledging of every good thing that is in us in Christ." It is not just sharing our scriptures with one another, but acknowledging one another. We acknowledge the purity, the praise we have in us, the godliness. Godliness is the expression of God. In I Cor.1:5 it says, "We have been enriched in all things,

in all knowledge, and in fully expressing this knowledge." You are not inadequate in your expression of this knowledge. New Testament knowledge is a consciousness or awareness. It is not information. You are not limited in your expression. Consider then, what is the result of me interpreting Christ as a success, of me saying, "Christ, YOU destroyed the works of the enemy for me, You restored me to absolute innocence. Christ, You did it! You wrought redemption out of and into, independent of our participation". What is the result of acknowledging His success in this manner? You confirm the testimony of Christ, the fullness of God living in you. You will start experiencing and living that life because we are completely united in the same life. Your acknowledgement will awaken that life in you. In Eph.1:12-13, it talks about us being the trophies, the evidence of His success, of who He is.

Is.61:9, "Their descendants shall be known among the Gentiles and their offspring among the people. All who see them shall acknowledge them as a people whom the Lord has blessed." Discover your audience as all men. We are read and known by all men. Interpreting His success, people cannot but acknowledge that you are a people that the Lord has blessed. The Word declares that there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and nothing hidden that will not be revealed. The fact that you have a body does not mean that your spirit cannot be seen. Your spirit is very visible to this world. Your spirit is known and read by all men, in this flesh body. Jesus said in John 14:2, "I go to prepare a place for you that where I am, you may be also." Where was He? At that moment, He was standing in His flesh body on earth, with His disciples. You see, though, in His spirit He had found His eternal dwelling place in the heart of

God. Realize that where He is, you are... in the flesh, here on earth, with the fullness of God dwelling in you. He is in you and you are in Him.

It is so wonderful if you know that someone delights and takes pleasure in you. You want to spend time with that person. It is no wonder then that we want to spend all our time with God. He finds such great delight and pleasure in us, He is overwhelmed with our presence. "You have ravished my heart, my sister, my bride."

Accuracy produces effectiveness. Your interpretation of Christ's purpose will make you accurate. When you are accurate, you will always be good in discovering our adequacy in the way that Christ communicates with you. Your voice will never be louder than His voice in your ear. Your words will never carry more revelation than His words in your heart. We are not inadequate in the way we communicate, because of the way He communicates. We can hear in such a way that it takes us beyond the place of dispute and confusion, so when we speak, we speak in such a way that others hear what we have heard. The challenge is not to call God a failure because of ignorance. God is not a failure; He was a success. Acknowledge His success. When they asked Him in John 6 "What is the work of God?" He replied, "That you believe." We can never offer God anything greater than the completeness of this redemption realized. I John 3:23,24 says, "We know that whatever we ask, we receive of Him because we do His commandments, and we do that which is pleasing in His sight." The next verse says, "This is His commandment - that you believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ." This name is a reputation based on an achievement. All God expects of you, is to believe in the achievement of Jesus Christ. I

want you to know that this redemption is so complete that the only contribution for you and me to realize it, is to agree and believe. You can do nothing more than that.

I want to encourage you not to waste opportunities *to find great pleasure in God and in yourself and in one another*. Do not waste time by spending it on a defeated enemy. It is so wonderful to realize that he has no place, not even in our memory. God is jealous over your thoughts. *He does not even want a memory of the enemy*. Ps.9:6 states that the enemy's destruction has ended forever. "You have destroyed cities. Even their memory has perished!" God does not want you to have any memory of an enemy, because the life that you now partake of was innocent from the beginning. You were never innocent based on God's life dwelling in you. The Lamb was slain before the foundation of the world. The price was paid before man sinned! Do not give a memory or anything to the enemy. Do not give one of your words to exalt his lies. The Word's original design was to communicate love - nothing else. Do not miss this opportunity, by spending it on irrelevant things. What the Son sees His Father doing, He does in like manner. The Father loves, and that is the only thing you will see when you behold the Father. The Father loves and we do it in like manner. We are Godlike lovers. We love to the same degree, the same intensity.

ETERNAL DAY

"This is the day that the Lord has made, we will rejoice in it."

Perhaps the most tremendous truth available to the understanding of man is "The day of Christ Jesus". When God measures day, He measures it in terms of light and not in terms of time. Day is the place where light and the sun rules, a place that knows no night. I John 1:5, says, "God is light and in Him there is no darkness." In II Cor.6, Paul writes, "At the acceptable time I heard you, and I helped you on the Day of Salvation, behold, NOW is the acceptable time, NOW is the Day of Salvation."

In God's calendar, an event has taken place that forever guaranteed His faith. A day has dawned that changed the destiny of the human race. The attempts of darkness can no longer challenge the success of His faith in man. His salvation has been placed beyond dispute, it is unchallengeable.

Spiritual death was never part of God's plan for His creature. When God considered man, it was in the light of Deity's perfect union. Man was the product of Their love, the creature who would reflect the glory of Their hearts. What Deity enjoyed in the beginning became the inspiration for man. "For with Thee is the fountain of life and in Your Light we see light." *Man is the ultimate desire of God*, He has had nothing less in mind for man than a perfect union with Him. We need to see and understand that Adam's fall did not have what it takes to destroy the faith of his Creator.

The implications of a spiritual union with the enemy caused Adam to loose the quality of life that he enjoyed, but it could not change the love within the heart of God.

"The light shines even in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it." God set about awakening in man again the taste for life. The prophetic word came to link man and God, it came to suggest the possibility of innocence between man and his Maker. Then came the day when God introduced the Law to man. He came and proclaimed the quality of life He had in mind for us, but man discovered that the very law that was meant to bring him life, revealed to him death - Rom 7:7-11.

The law revealed to him the nature of his dilemma, it revealed the extent of sin's influence within him, and so man realized that he could not redeem himself, he needed something greater than his own efforts.

For this purpose, God, incarnate in the flesh (the last Adam), came to release man into the fullness of a righteousness that has nothing to do with the ability of man, but is indeed the product of, and the fulfilling of God's original faith.

Isaiah 26:12 reads, "O Lord, You will establish peace for us, You have wrought for us all our works in us," and verse 18, (NAS) "We could not accomplish salvation for the earth."

In understanding the life of Jesus in His early walk, we must see further than a single, unique individual. The reason why the Son of God was manifested in the flesh was to represent man. God associated us, in Christ Jesus, before the fall of the world (Eph 1:4), but now He revealed Him in the flesh, carrying the nations in his loins.

As we had borne the image of the man of dust, so we are to bear the image of the man from heaven. (I Cor 15:43-49)

Jesus came to prove the design of mankind as the reflection of God's handiwork. His death and resurrection was to release man from spiritual death. Heb 2:14 declares, "Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, He himself likewise partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death."

(Rom 8:1-2) -"There is therefore now no condemnation for those that are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the spirit. For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set me free from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the spirit."

Let us consider again the original thought with which we began. God saw a future with man beyond interruption, beyond interference. He saw a day that would never again know night! Ps 30:5 declares so eloquently the triumph of his favor. "His anger was but for a moment, but His favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for a night but joy comes in the morning." Mal 4:2 says, "The sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in His wings". Gal 4:4 says, "When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son... to REDEEM those who were under the law." The full implication of God's salvation is available to man.

THE FINAL GUARANTEE

"And because we are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba Father!" - Gal 4:6.

This is the final evidence to the integrity of our redemption. The Spirit Himself bears witness in our hearts to the reality of a standing of blamelessness before God. We are born of an incorruptible seed, children of God! In I Pet.1:10, Paul speaks again of the time of this salvation! "The prophets who prophesied of the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired about this salvation; they inquired what person or time was indicated by the Spirit of Christ within them, when they predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glory. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves, but you, in the things that have NOW been announced to you."

God had a new creation people in mind, a new species of men. In Rom 16, we see how God had disclosed within the scriptures the revelation of this mystery to man, and Paul through the preaching of the gospel, the preaching of Jesus Christ, now communicates to man the confidence and faith of God. In the revealing of Christ, God imparts His own persuasion to man. He encourages the believer to see himself the way He sees him, to see himself as the product of this great salvation.

The faith God demonstrated in Jesus became the commission in Paul's heart, and He began to labor in communicating to man the full implication of what God had achieved on behalf of mankind. The fullness of

Christ was available to man, so Paul writes of how, through the grace of God as a skilled master builder he laid a foundation. He writes though, "Let each man take care how he builds, for no foundation can be laid other than that which is already laid... which is Christ Jesus!" - I Cor.3:10-11.

The secret to the church's growth is understanding what God did to build His church. He created her His righteousness, His workmanship. There is no other foundation to lay for her encounter with Him, than Him. It is not the diligence of my own effort that gives me credit before the Almighty, but understanding the completeness of His success on my behalf.

God does not count the works of man as the basis for His recognition. He desires to quicken within me the obedience of faith, so that I may enjoy the fullness of fellowship made possible through His substitution. Man has only one responsibility in the New Covenant... *to discover!* All that is left for me to do, is *to enjoy and appreciate* the wisdom of God in His plan. The mystery is now disclosed according to the command of God to bring about the obedience of faith! Rom 16:26.

Eccl.3:11 - He has made everything beautiful in it's time. Also, He has put eternity in their hearts.

II Pet 1:19 - "We also have the prophetic word made more sure, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and *the morning star* rises in your hearts."

This booklet as well as other books can be ordered from the following address:

BOOKS / BOEKE:

- **FAMILY LIFE** (A Guide to personal victory)
- **CHILDREN: A BLESSING OR A CURSE?** (Biblical principles in raising up your children)
- **IN THE FACE OF MY FATHER** (Jacob's struggle for identity)
- **MERCY IS MY GIFT** (The story of Salmon and Rahab)
- **LETTERS TO MY DAUGHTER I** (Daily devotions from the heart of the Father to His daughters!!)

- **FAMILIELEWE** ('n Gids tot persoonlike oorwinning)
- **KINDERS: 'N SEËN OF 'N VLOEK?** (Bybelse beginsels vir kinderopvoeding)
- **DIE VERBOND** (Die inhoud, aard en wese van Bybelse verbonde)
- **DIE VOLMAAKTE LIEFDESOFFER** (Die verhaal van Josef, die vader van Jesus)

BOOKLETS:

- WHO IS IN CHRIST? / WIE IS IN CHRISTUS?
- POSITION AND CONDUCT / STAND EN WANDEL
- ONE MAN'S OBEDIENCE
- DEALING WITH DISAPPOINTMENT
- THE FINAL WORD
- INFALLIBLE INTEGRITY
- GOD'S PORTION
- I AM LOVE
- JOY OF GOD'S DESIRE
- HIS WORKMANSHIP
- LIVING BEYOND DEFEAT

- LOGIC OF HIS LOVE
- PERFECT LAW OF LIBERTY
- COVENANT KNOWLEDGE

PAMFLETBOEKIES:

- WAT IS DIE MENS?
- TIENDES EN OFFERGAWES
- DIE WESE VAN VADERSKAP
- FINANSIËLE VRYHEID
- JESUS, DIE BLOUDRUK EN SPIEËL VAN DIE MENS
- HOEKOM MOET JY DEEL VAN 'N GEMEENTE WEES?

ADDRESS:- LIFEWISE PUBLISHERS
 P.O. BOX 312 88
 WONDERBOOMPOORT
 0033.
 (012) 335 7571 (H + F)
 082 460 3024 - Arno
 079 796 1763 - Marianne

Orders for material: orders@lifewise.co.za
 Fax: 086 559 2036

Visit us @ **www.lifewise.co.za**