

"The Word as Personal Life"

John 1:1-18

The most significant aspect of Christianity is not its theology, its behavioral boundaries, or even the place we go when we die - it is LIFE! Life that is more than existence, more than functioning organs... the Life which makes life full of life... the life which enables us to fully and properly function according to our design. This life, all of it that we will ever need is in the Person of Jesus Christ. "The promise of life is in Jesus Christ." (II Tim 1:1) "In Him," says John, "is (this) life" (Jo 1:4). "Whoever has the Sin has (this) Life." (I Jo 5:12)

When we believe into Him and confess Him as Lord, we receive Him (Jo 1:12). He gives us Himself and we become the very children of God (Jo 1:12; I Jo 3:1) We receive His nature (II Pet 1:4) - a newness at the center of our being (Ro 6:4). This is no improved "I", but an exchanged "I" (Ga 2:20). It is not "just me" any longer, it is "Christ in me" (Col 1:27). Our calling is to live and move and have our being in Him (Acts 17:28). Our vocation now is to be our true son and daughter of God selves.

This personal life is known only as it is lived. We received real Life from the heavenly realm, but it must be lived in the world. The world - with all its tension and contradiction - is perfect for what God intends - that we would grow into this fullness of life by trusting Him. Not by trying hard to be different, but by trusting Him to live His Personal Life in and through us. His life, with all its vitality, all its loveliness and liveliness, is activated in us by the "obedience of faith". (Ro 1:6; 16:26) We engage in a relational and operational oneness with Him as we, day by day, hour by hour, moment by moment say "yes" to His yes, "no" to His no for all our choices. In this step-by-step manner - One lovingly leading and one humbly following - we learn to live by His Life.

It is here we discover that "Not I, but Christ" is not only our salvation theology, but also our living-the-Christian-life theology. We focus on Him, not ourselves. We consider Him, not our circumstances. When Jesus Christ is seen as our Personal Life, He becomes the subject in every story, the Lead in every drama, the Guide on every adventure. As our Personal Life, He experientially becomes to us what He already is - all in all (Eph 1:23).



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GREETINGS

Every year about this time, I get upset with the Wise Men. They started all this mess of giving presents with their gold, frankincense and myrrh! Yet, I don't think it was really their intent to give "dust" to Divinity. I believe, deep down, their gift was their presence. They went to Bethlehem in person to adore Christ with the gift of themselves.

However, I'm not so sure we get that. At least, at Christmas time we seem to forget it. It's not really what we buy or unwrap on Christmas day - it's about Who we receive and choose to give away.

Even if you choose to "buy" for others this holiday, don't forget to choose to "be" for others. Be God's love, His grace, His mercy, His compassion, His kindness, His truth.

So that when, throughout the year, we give gifts to others, they don't get common stuff - "dust". Let's see to it that they get uncommon stuff - Divinity. Let's remember to be to others the Gift He is to us. Merry Christmas!

One In Christ, Inc.
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Alachua, Florida 32615

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



CALENDAR



DECEMBER

5,12,19,26 CCF
7 Ocala Study
14 Alachua Study

JANUARY

28-30 Leesburg, FL (352-267-2939)

FEBRUARY

18-20 Florida Retreat

MARCH

4-6 Ft. Meyers, FL (239-369-5555)

APRIL

1-3 Atlanta, GA (www.gracewalk.org,
see "Grace Explosion")



Florida Retreat



"Perfecting The Perfect"

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Alachua, Florida

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