

# **CONTINUING THE “GREEN LETTERS”**

**FALL : 2023 - SPRING: 2024**

**CHAPTER 38-39, pg. 175-180**

***If you lose the Person, you lose the principal; when you lose the principal, you lose the process; when you lose the process, you lose your purpose; when you lose your purpose, you move to perversion and even perdition***

***Person*** - the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God

***Principal*** - God creating a new people for the coming kingdom who live it here and now

***Process*** - this present life is a slow but determined process of being conformed to His image and moved away from the image of the world

***Purpose*** - to be the embodiment/incarnation of Christ on earth in His visible absence in faith and true holiness

***Perversion*** - to change the outcome of the process to the opposite of what was intended

***Perdition*** - the destruction of one's self and those he has been misguided to hate destroying the image of Christ one was intended to be

***How can one lose the Person of the Christ?*** By losing one's focus that Christ IS our life; by no longer making knowing Him the number one priority in one's life; by creating our own imagined image of Him rather than the one found in the Word of God; by grieving the Holy Spirit through unbelief; by desiring what He can give one and not on knowing Him for His own sake; by living routine tradition instead of fresh prayer and study of His Word; by not abiding in Him with His Word abiding in us; by living by the self-effort of the old man; by putting principle OVER person

## **38 - THAT I MAY KNOW HIM**

*As the author states when offering the reason he has written this book and emphasized what he has, he writes (p. 175)*

*“Our object in sharing these truths of the Word is that we may be turned FROM all that God condemned TO a deep personal knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

*“Truth can be very impersonal and ineffective if its ultimate purpose is not realized.”*

*“What we need is the Spirit’s application of the full-orbed work of the Cross. This will enable us to avoid the sin within and without, and to give our complete attention and love to the Lord Jesus. Anything short of this will satisfy neither Him nor the hungry heart.”*

*Since Jesus promised eternal life to all who believe in Him, it is of great value to know what He meant by eternal life. He defines eternal life in John 17:3*

*Joh 17:3 "And this is **eternal life**, that they may **know You**, the only true God, **and Jesus Christ** whom You have sent. (NKJV)*

*In this same prayer, later in his speaking to His Father, that He defines that eternal life as believers being in a union with Him and God the Father. This is a oneness like that which they share.*

*Our union with Him and the Father will be different in that we are not inherently divine but are regenerated as divine. We are created things and cannot share His inherent attributes. There will still be something that makes us different from the Father, Son and Holy Spirit since they are uncreated and those attributes are a part of them. We only share the attributes the Trinity is willing to share with us. These are called in the Scripture, the fruit of the Spirit. They are given to us by the Spirit of God uniting them to us by the new birth. It is this union and regeneration that makes us children of God for we are made “after His kind.” The new birth as recreated us in the image of Christ and the Holy Spirit works on us everyday in the experiences of life to conform us to Christ’s image*

*It is God’s will and plan that people will be united with Him and in that intimate fellowship that the Father and the Son share. It was evidenced while our Lord was here on earth as God in the flesh. Knowing Him is the words for a deep intimacy. Eternal life then is deep intimacy with God the Father and God the Son through God the Holy Spirit. It is unbreakable and thus eternal.*

*We can only know the Father (eternal intimacy and life) through the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. John 14:9, 11*

### *SOME WORDS OF CLARITY ABOUT THIS INTIMACY*

*“We are NOT to know the Lord Jesus in order to emulate Him as our EXAMPLE. Rather we are to behold Him in the Word and allow the Spirit of God to conform us to His image. Not IMITATION but CONFORMATION.”*

*If we try to live the Christian life in the power of the old man (religious self) and follow his leadings as to what makes one righteous (think, Adam and Eve and fig leaf aprons to cover our lack of God’s glory), the hateful works of the flesh will inevitably be manifested for all to see and suffer from.*

*This has been born out so explicitly in church history. So many misguided things have been done by those who thought they were Christians because they were being fed information and sometimes sheer propaganda to appease the elites and powerful. One word describes the lust of those who misidentify the Christ and therefore misidentify their mission, “Power!” One need to look no farther than the Crusades, the Inquisition or the treatment of native Americans or any conquered people.*

*Jesus’ profound gospel, as found in such teachings as the sermon on the mount, became obscured when the propaganda of power and domination took the forefront in the lives of those claiming faith in Christ.*

*Our Lord Jesus said, “Learn of me.” Here are some things we need to learn of Him.*

*In eternity, HIS LIFE AS CREATOR*

*He shared the glory of His Father before the worlds were created.*

*All things were created through Him and for Him  
Nothing exists without Him and He holds it all together by the Word of His power.*

*Therefore, for there to be reconciliation of man to God it must come through that Creator*

*In real time, HIS LIFE ON EARTH*

*For actual growth, there is to be an entering into His life via the Word - feeding on Him, appropriating Him*

- 1) We need to feed on His character as He deals with all kinds of people in all kinds of conditions with mercy and honesty. He is not just using a method than can be learned and taught, but it is His life He is sharing since it is His very nature to be compassionate, tender and truthful*
- 2) Pay close attention to the way He calls people to follow Him. He deals with each one with the degree of compassion and firmness that draws them out to follow Him. See how calmly and certainly He faces the difficulties in life or the corrective teachings He shares. He knows what each person needs and meets it.*
- 3) Listen to Him commissioning His disciples with the details of their coming mission that will be done in His absence. See how He patiently gives them on the job training. Learn His compassion and abundance-from-nothing that feeds thousands.*
- 4) Listen to the authority and convicting power with compassion He teaches in such accounts as the Good Samaritan. Learn the bigger picture of the mercy, justice and kindness He wants us to show. See how He elevates us above the mundane to the heights of heaven. He is changing our minds to think like Him. Join the process with Him. Read the Word with more diligence, searching for the person of Christ. Find His power unleashed in you as you submit to these truths over your own thinking.*

*In present time in eternity, HIS LIFE IN GLORY*

*Make it real that you are seated with Him in His glory at the right hand of the Father. Do not*

*limit yourself in your view of Jesus only to His historical life 2000 years ago.*

*Remember He is risen from the dead AND ASCENDED TO HEAVEN. Read the descriptions in Revelation about how He looks right now in Heaven. Hear the words He speaks there! Then remember you are in Him experiencing that with Him.*

*Carefully consider that you are in Him and begin to think His thoughts and desires. Why is He seated at the right hand of God now? What is He doing there?*

*Consider His advocacy for His people there against the accusations of the satan.*

*Consider His intercession for His sheep*

*Consider His intervention in your life that you would be true and faithful in the experiences designed to conform to His own image*

*Consider His character that is running through you as you are in this perfect, eternal union with Him*

*Do not think of Him as being geographically too far away from you; He is a thought and a prayer away.*

*Consider His patience as He awaits His Father's word that the time of His return has come.*

*Consider His humility: He is still in a human body and will be for eternity*

*Consider that because of this union, upon death you will be just like Him*

*Set your mind on the things He thinks about; He taught them to us while here, now let us rise above these earthly, old man, worldly thoughts and think like the new people we are in His image*

*Consider His glory*

***HIS LIFE AS RULER AND SUSTAINER***

*Think of His great power that holds every atom in its place; every planet and star in its place in the universe so that there is no collision even though there is no solid structure holding them in place. They are suspended in a vacuum and He holds it together*

*Think of the power that can hold all of it together at one time with all the multiples of inputs and feedback that is coming from them all the time*

*Think of how He can know how to work all things together for the good of His will*

*“It is not law ultimately which rules this Universe, but God our Father, and He rules it through His Son our Saviour. Human history is not in the grip of fate, but in the hands of Him Who was pierced for us on Calvary”*

*HIS LIFE OUR GROUND OF GROWTH - pg 179*

*“The ground of the first Adam is that into which we were born and in which we grew. It is there that the world, the flesh and the devil would keep us in bondage. It is the ground of carnality, sin, and death - off limits to the new creation in Christ.”*

*“The ground of the last Adam is that into which we have been reborn and are to abide. It is there that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit would have us grow and mature. It is the ground of spirituality, righteousness, and life - the Father’s one abiding place for the believer”*

*“As we take our rightful stand on the resurrection side of the Cross, setting our minds and hearts on the Lord Jesus via the Word, the Holy Spirit will establish us in Him above.”*

### **39 - SUMMATION**

*Christ’s life has come to exchange our sinful life for His righteous one  
Redemption is the recovery of the man, not the destruction of the man. He is not replacing our personality but the sin in it. The poison of sin had used our God created faculties in a rebellion against God. Now Christ’s life in ours gives us new power!*