

THE REDEEMER

1 Peter 1:18 Forasmuch 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; 1 Peter 1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

RHEMA CHRISTIAN CENTER PRISON MINISTRY PUBLICATION FALL/WINTER 2005

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IDENTIFY THEFT

ID Theft occurs when someone has assumed your identity. ID theft losses totaled \$547 million dollars between January and December 2004. There were over 635,000 cases filed with the Consumer Sentinel which is a database housed by the Federal Trade Commission. Not only are thieves at fault, but our society and financial institutions. Id theft costs have been passed onto consumers who pay in the long run higher credit card fees, interest, insurance, cost for attorneys and time and effort to stop the fraud.

This is ID theft in the natural world, but it also occurs in the Body of Christ. When God created you He had purpose in mind of what you would be, and how you would affect the earth. The purpose of a thing is the original intent for which it was designed to do or perform. Two things that make us unique are your fingerprint and DNA (except in Identical Twins). Many of us have not found out why God placed us in the earth and who we are, therefore we are acting out something that is not by design or purpose. You can never find peace and contentment until you know what your purpose is.

Genesis 1:26 God said, Let Us [Father, Son, and Holy Spirit] make mankind in Our image, after Our likeness, and let them have complete authority over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the [tame] beasts, and over all of the earth, and over everything that creeps upon the earth. [Ps. 104:30; Heb. 1:2; 11:3.]

God intended for man to have complete dominion over all creation. Man possessed the highest kind of life which is self conscious life having an awareness of oneself as an individual or one's being, actions or thoughts. Thus, here was a creature who could not only eat of Eden's delicious food, but would glance heavenward first and thank the one who created both eater and food. No dandelion or dinosaur they were the progressives of the day, willing to adopt new ideas and adapt the law to new situations.

The Pharisees were strongly monotheistic (The doctrine or belief that there is only one God). They accepted all the Old Testament as authoritative. They affirmed the reality of angels and demons. They had a firm belief in life beyond the grave and a resurrection of the body. They were missionary, seeking the conversion of Gentiles (Matt. 23:15). They saw God as concerned with the life of a person without denying that the individual was responsible for how he or she lived. They had little interest in politics. The Pharisees opposed Jesus because He refused to accept the teachings of the oral law.

Jesus pronounced eight woes against the Pharisees. Here are two of them; Mathew 23:15 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to make one convert, and when he becomes one, you make him twice as fit for hell as you are!

Matthew 23:25 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence! 26 Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup, so the outside of it may also become clean

To avoid ID theft you must learn to walk in your purpose. Your purpose is in Christ and it can only be revealed through a relationship with Him. Christ is looking for men and women who know that they cannot make it on their own, but if they are connected to Christ then they can bear much fruit.

Please ask Christ today to come into your heart and help you live a life that has meaning based upon His original plan when He birthed you into the world. Pray this passage of scriptures:

Romans 10: 8-10 says “On the contrary, what does it say? The message is near you, in your mouth and in your heart. This is the message of faith that we proclaim: If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. With the heart one believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth one confesses, resulting in salvation.

Welcome to the Kingdom of God, and may the Lord add to your life daily, may you not stand before Him as a child He does not know. May God richly bless you as you walk with Him daily.

HIS PLANS

My Dad left while my mother was still carrying me. A family member molested me during my early childhood years. I started using drugs and having sex as a teen. I was a sinner. Oh, but the blood of Jesus did wash away my sin's. I had a lot of issues and my Mom and I didn't get along. I met an older man and begin to use crack with him, which lead to a very chaotic lifestyle. I don't tell you my experiences to be judged. There is a song that says, “Use me Lord to show someone the way, enable me to say that my storage is empty”. How can I help you if I act like I haven't been through anything? I want you to know that I do understand your pain, frustrations, your fight and the yearning for a new life. If you submit yourself to God and resist the devil he will flea! If you faint not you will reap a harvest! The Bible says that Jesus understands our infirmities for he walked and was tempted as we are, because of it we can come boldly to his throne of grace and seek help in the time of need. The difference is that he didn't sin. When we are filled with the spirit and are being lead by the spirit we don't have to sin either. It is a choice.

I had a girlfriend come to me and tell me how awesome God is! She told me what he was doing in her life. She said that I should give my life to the Lord so he could use me. I began to think of what I had to let go of. Thank God that he knows the process that we must walk and he is long- suffering and patient.

So then my friends, because of God's great mercy to us I appeal to you: Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to His service and pleasing to him.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”. Jeremiah 29:11 (Life Application) For I know the thoughts that I think towards you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. (New King James)

To reflect is defined as a method worked out beforehand for the accomplishment of an objective. And I hear the Lord saying, “I have a method already worked out and I did it beforehand to accomplish my purpose for your life”.

In the second translation he says, “I know the thoughts that I think towards you”. You can have one thought or many thoughts. To have more than one thought would be an act of weighing out, considering and paying close attention to certain things. God says, “I am thinking about you and was thinking about you a long time ago. My thoughts were and are good concerning you. Yes, I have taken into consideration your weaknesses, flaws, emotions and feelings of inadequacy. I know all about you. I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb. I have paid close attention to your prayers, pain, disappointments, cry outs, moans and hurts. I have paid attention to you rejoicing when in pain for others and your desiring to please me when it didn't seem fair”.

Another translation says, surely I know and another says I alone know. Surely means with confidence, unhesitatingly, undoubting, certainly and without fail. No one can say this to you because they can't see ahead.

Only God is all knowing. If you are unsure about your life go to God and inquire of him to share those plans he has for you. His plans are to prosper you and not harm you. Not to pimp you, use you, cause you emotional pain or abuse. It is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

Recently I found myself in an ungodly relationship. I made my sin known to very close people in my life. I wanted to expose where I was, and to allow them to pray for me. I continued in that relationship for several months. I was crying out to the Lord for help! I heard myself like Paul say, “that which is good I want to do but yet I do what I hate, it is no longer me but sin that dwells in me”. No excuses. In your flesh dwells no good thing. That’s why you must walk in the spirit. The word says, “That we overcome by the blood of the lamb and by the word of our testimony”. God gave me a word! I am no longer a slave to sin but a slave to righteousness.

The Bible in Romans 12:1-2 say, “And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice – the kind he will accept. When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask?

Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Jeremiah 29:11 God says, “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope”.

I don’t care where you are reading this article you can present your body a living sacrifice. You don’t have to allow yourself to be an instrument of sin (pride, fornication, hatred, unforgiveness (see Gal 5:18-19). Sacrifices in the Old Testament were dead. We have to die to our will and lay down our life. I didn’t love my way of life so much that I stayed out there in the world when God was making a way of escape for me to be whom he predestined. I pray you won’t either. Come out of darkness into his marvelous light and grab hold of the life more abundantly that Christ gave his life for you to have. They say in the rooms of recovery that you face the gloom of death, depression and suicide. I had done everything but die a natural death. God has removed destruction from my life. For that I am grateful. My ways of thinking had me committing crimes, hurting my family, unable to care for my children and in and out of jail to name a few. When I began to read the Word of God I started applying it to my life and change began.

Currently I am in school studying for a bachelor degree in healthcare administration, taking care of my kids, working, an active member in my church and community. See you can’t know God’s will until you renew your mind. When we mess up God doesn’t think bad towards us but will forgive us when we ask and cleanse us of all unrighteousness. Do you have desires and dreams?

Only God can give you the plans to achieving those things. First you must confess with your mouth and believe in your heart that Jesus is Lord, and then ask the Lord to forgive your sins and yield to the move of his Holy Spirit to do a good work in you. Trust me your life will never be the same.

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could do this.

Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made.
He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

Gen 3:2 The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden;

Gen 3:3 but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’”

Heaven records “ID Theft Case number 101” Satan versus Adam & Eve. God had already prepared a Defense Attorney for the case. Never allow the enemy to bring deception into what God has already said. We

must understand God's purpose and His word concerning who we are in Him.

Samson was an example of ID theft in the Bible. Before his conception, Samson was dedicated by his parents to be a lifelong Nazirite (13:3-7), a person especially devoted or consecrated. Part of the vow included letting the hair grow and abstaining from wine and strong drink. Samson's legendary strength did not come from his long hair. Rather, it came through the "Spirit of the Lord" who would "come upon" him to enable him to perform amazing feats of physical strength (14:6,19; 15:14; compare 16:28-29). Although a Nazirite, Samson did not live a devoted life. More frequently, he was careless in his vow. He secretly disobeyed the prohibition of approaching a dead body (14:8-9), had immoral relations with a Gaza harlot (16:1), and with Delilah (16:4-20).

Samson is portrayed as a headstrong young man with little or no self-control. None of his exploits show him as a religious enthusiast. In fact, every major crisis in his life resulting in clashes against the Philistines were brought on by his relationships with Philistine women.

Ultimately, Samson proved little more than a thorn in the flesh to the Philistines. He never really freed Israel from the dominion of the Philistines. In his death, he killed more Philistines than the total he had killed during his life (16:30).

A New Testament example is the Pharisees who constituted the most important group. They appear in the Gospels as the opponents of Jesus. Paul claimed that he was a Pharisee before becoming a Christian (Phil. 3:5). They were the most numerous of the groups, although Josephus stated that they numbered only about six thousand. They controlled the synagogues and exercised great control over the general population.

No surviving writing gives us information about the origin of the Pharisees. The earliest reference to them is dated in the time of Jonathan (160-143 B.C.), where Josephus refers to Pharisees, Sadducees, and Essenes. Their good relations with the rulers ended in the time of John Hyrcanus (134-104 B.C.). They came to power again when Salome Alexandra became queen (76 B.C.). They were the developers of the oral tradition, the teachers of the two-fold law: written and oral. They saw the way to God as through

HIS GRACE

G-GOD'S

R-RIGHTIOUSNESS

A-ALWAYS

C-CONQUERING

E-EVIL

ROMAMNS 5:1-5, 21

GRACE is undeserved acceptance and love received from another, especially the characteristic attitude of God in providing salvation for sinners. For Christians, the word "grace" is virtually synonymous with the gospel of God's gift of unmerited salvation in Jesus Christ.

Written by **Joyce Beckhon**

I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for. 12 "When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I'll listen. 13 "When you come looking for me, you'll find me." Yes, when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else, 14 I'll make sure you won't be disappointed." GOD's Decree.
Jeremiah 29:11-14 (MSG)

The Time is Now!

The Purpose is Divine

The Vision is Clear

The Mission is Possible

Rhema Christian Center has been in a year of preparing for the future growth in the Kingdom of God. The church can never be large enough until everyone is saved. Jesus Christ wished that none should perish, but all would come to repentance.

We thank you chaplains, institutional staff, inmates who have received us in the name of Christ. Although we know we are to come and minister the Gospel, it has been your cooperation, serving and ministry to us that encourages our continual growth and faithfulness to your various places of worship. We look forward to 2006.

Ephesians 3:14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Ephesians 3:15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

Ephesians 3:16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

Ephesians 3:17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love.

Thank you for opening your hearts and doors to us.

We are praying for you.

Written by
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