



**Tim and Rosemary Williams
with daughters Rebecca and Colleen**

In 1984, Tim began attending the University of Alaska. As he grew in his knowledge of the Scripture, he became convinced that the Church of Rome was, in his words, “no church at all,” and that the pope was an antichrist. It was at this time that the pope visited Fairbanks as a part of the tour arranged to visit President Ronald Reagan. Tim decided he had to take a stand.

I knew the area around the airport better than the Secret Service, and I knew where to go to get close to the pope. (This was before he began to travel in the security vehicle called the “pope mobile.”) I was able to position myself very near to him. When he approached me, I said to him, “You are an antichrist and I am offended by you. We are to call no man our father, except our Father in heaven.”

He was shocked and frightened. I could sense the fear. The Secret Service moved in and questioned me. I didn’t realize that television cameras recorded the incident. When I got home, I found that my parents had watched the news and they knew what I had done. All my belongings were outside and they said to me, “You are no longer our son.”

Suddenly it seemed that I was no longer welcome anywhere. I had no church, no

family, no place to live. Was I right, or was I was going off on a tangent? I didn’t know the Bible that well. I was just saved. I had no one to teach me. But God and Christ were very precious to me. I had no one else. I felt that He had wrapped His arm around me and was tenderly leading me into green pastures.

I went over to the university to see my advisor, thinking, “What am I going to do?” I found that she was looking for me! She said, “My husband is dying of cancer and we have been looking for someone to live in our home while we are in the Caribbean. Would you be willing?”

“When?” I asked.

“Now!” she replied.

For the next eight months I stayed in this beautiful home. I made sure she had the gospel, for I put tracts in many of her books. She said some years later that she would discover them when she used her books.

Searching for a place to worship, I began to go around to different churches. There were some strange ones. Some were cultish. I came to a charismatic church and told them that I needed to be baptized. They took me to a place distant from Fairbanks and told me that when I came out of the water, I would be able to speak in tongues. I thought, “This is phenomenal!” When I came out, it didn’t happen, so I lied and began to speak gibberish. Then a lady started to interpret what I had said, but I knew that I had lied. I immediately felt that I had committed the unpardonable sin.

Once we were back in Fairbanks, I told them that I lied and that they had lied and I left. I asked the Lord to lead me to a place where I could be taught. It took almost a year to find a place. One day at the university a lady named Joyce Smith advertised a Bible study. She had a plate of cookies and I had to have some. She asked if I would come to the Bible study.

I said, “Do you really study the Bible, or do you just call it that?”

She replied, “No, we study it.”

I promised her I would go.

At the Bible study there was a man by the name of Karl Sapp, a missionary and a graduate of Bob Jones University. He talked about things that were in the Bible, and I asked him about every one of them, if they were really true. I wanted to know. Finally, Karl began to meet with me personally, discipling me in the Christian faith.

Soon the Lord called me to preach. I remember the day. I was sitting in a car and I felt compelled to enter the ministry. I wrestled with the call, but after prayer and searching, knew that I had to obey. I went to Bob Jones University to prepare for the ministry, where the Lord graciously allowed me to meet my wife.

I think it a great privilege that God called me out of the darkness into the light. I can testify that when He saves us, He takes us from our ignorance, and not only does He make us acquainted with Himself, but He draws us to Himself and He walks with us.

Pastor Tim Williams is living proof of the truth of this statement. Today he ministers to a growing congregation. He and his wife, Rosemary, have two girls, Rebecca and Colleen. He has been able to re-establish friendly relations with his family and waits on the Lord to bring them to faith in Christ. ■

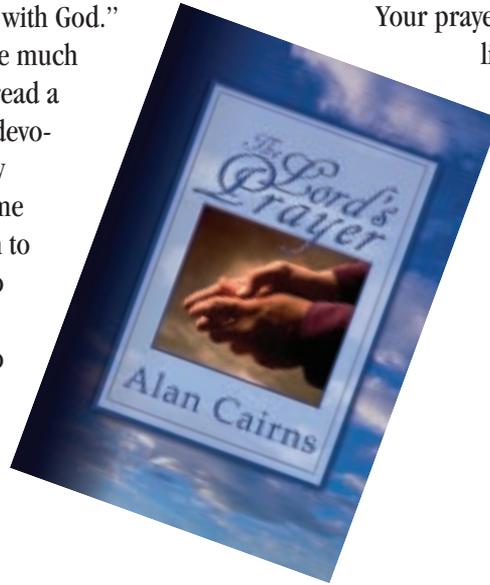
Dr. L. Gene Elliott is Associate Dean for Library Services at Greenville Technical College in Greenville, South Carolina, and is Adjunct Professor of Management at Webster University’s campus there. He and his wife, Sara, are members of Faith Free Presbyterian Church in Greenville.



For further help on how to pray, read Dr. Alan Cairns' latest book, *The Lord's Prayer*, published by Ambassador International. As in many of his other books, Dr. Cairns takes a familiar passage of scripture (the Ten Commandments in *Chariots of God*, the Beatitudes in *Throned in Highest Bliss*, and Galatians 5:22 in *The Fruit of the Spirit*), and opens it up, revealing layer upon layer of riches to be mined. The book studies Matthew 6:5–13, explaining our Saviour's teaching on prayer and then examining His pattern for our praying. It begins with how not to pray and proceeds to show us how to pray, setting forth the great secret of power in prayer—

“a vision of the greatness and glory of our God that brings us into true heart communion with God.”

If you don't have much time for reading, read a little bit each day devotionally. Even a few paragraphs at a time will give you much to meditate on and to profit from. It will take you a while to finish the book at that rate, however, since it is a substantial



work of over 250 pages. But whether you read it slowly or quickly, be sure to read it. Your prayer life and your Christian life as a whole will never be the same again. ■

Judy Brown
Editorial assistant
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(continued from page 19) Newness of life is the inevitable consequence of union with Christ: “ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who raised him from the dead” (2:12).

Scripture regards the natural man apart from Christ as being dead in trespasses and sins and incapable of any spiritual comprehension (Ephesians 2:1; 1 Corinthians 2:14). In contrast to this natural condition, God has caused those united to Christ to live together with Him: “And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him” (2:13). For certain, believers will one day be raised bodily from physical death to eternal glorification, but Paul refers here to a spiritual resurrection that initiates spiritual life and commences progressing sanctification. Verses 13b through 15 describe how this life with Christ was accomplished.

The apostle uses a series of five participial clauses to express the basis of the Christian's sharing life with Christ. The first participle expresses forgiveness: “having forgiven you all trespasses.” This is fundamental to spiritual life. If spiritual death results from sin, sin must be forgiven

for there to be life. Significantly, the word for grace forms the root of the participle translated “having forgiven.” Forgiveness would be impossible if it were the reward for merit or effort. It is by grace that we are saved.

The second participle—“blotting out”—introduces a significant image illustrating forgiveness. The image involves the canceling of the legal obligations surrounding a debt. The “handwriting of ordinances” refers to a contract of debt endorsed by the debtor. It is an IOU. The specific debt consisted of the ordinances or decrees, most likely a reference to God's moral law. Obedience to these absolute moral requirements is man's obligation to God. Man's inability to pay this debt results in a constant accusation against him. Christ, however, has erased the debt; He has removed the legal impediment to fellowship with God and spiritual life.

The third participle—“having nailed”—emphasizes the finality of the removal. Not only did God erase the debt, but He took it away completely. By His death, Christ destroyed the necessity of keeping the law in order to obtain life. Because of Christ and His redeeming and atoning work, the

only valid and possible way to obtain spiritual life is through Him.

The final two participles are part of the same picture. Because of the work of Christ, God stripped (“having spoiled”) all the leaders of wickedness of any and all authority and power (see Ephesians 6:12). He declared publicly that those powers of evil that hold sway over men are defeated. He has won the victory. The participle “triumphing” paints the image of a victorious general who divests the enemy of everything and leads them away as captives.

Christ is indeed supreme over all things. Christ has accomplished for His people everything that is necessary both for the life that is to come and for the life that now is. In this passage, Paul concludes—and so must we—that since fullness of life is possible in Christ, those in union with Christ share in His fullness and have no need for anything outside of Him. ■

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