

We as servants of Christ and ambassadors of his Kingdom would like to remind you of our ministry here at Church Built of Living Stones. It is a ministry of reconciliation given to us by our Father. Our instruction is not to teach you the things of God in rules and regulations, but to encourage you that the only one who can teach you of the Father is Jesus Christ and he will do this by the power of his word and Spirit. Our teaching ministry towards you is for you to trust that you can be taught of the Lord and that you need no man to mediate between God and yourself except the man Christ Jesus.

This may be daunting to you at the beginning, but it will eventually release you into God's Holy Kingdom from which you will never wish to depart. The attacks and slanders will be immense and will continue until the last enemy is overcome.

But fear not the Lord will be on your side. (Read Psalm 124).

The Kingdom of God is like leaven or yeast in a lump of dough and it is growing and advancing throughout the earth and will bear fruit to God's glory. We are saying that Christ is building his Kingdom and its inhabitants are as living stones built up to be a holy habitation for God. We will never have a bricks and mortar building. We do not solicit money to spread the good news. At the same time, we encourage giving to the poor in spirit, by this we mean give your whole life to Christ and his Kingdom and you will see the salvation of God in effect. Our endeavour is to see God's people go forth and proclaim Jesus and Christ's Kingdom without the restrictions of denominational power overriding them.

Everyman in the body of Christ Jesus has a purpose and can go forth in the power of God's Spirit with a new tongue and prophecy. The new tongue is the Gospel and the Spirit of Prophecy is the Lord Jesus Christ. They tell the world that God the Father is not holding their sins and lawlessness against them and that he grants them the Holy Spirit to guide and lead them into all truth.

The Holy Spirit leads them to Jesus and Jesus teaches them all things of the Father.

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### May His Kingdom come

We cry out in the wilderness of this present evil age amid the hindering religions of this world to the seeker, the broken hearted, the captives, the bound, the sick, the down trodden, the voiceless and those that live in darkness who see a great light – look up for your King comes. His name is Jesus and he brings a Kingdom which encompasses all the glories of the coming age. Seek and you shall find, ask and it will be given you, knock and it will be opened unto you. He will grant those that seek first his Kingdom riches of glory that this world knows nothing about. He comes not for the righteous but for the sinner and he will receive you with open arms and give you a vision of hope that has its origins from the heart of God. Obey his calling - come into the light, don't hover on the edge of the light, come into the light, all your prayers will be answered in the light.

### Fear not, do not be afraid

In the world you will have trouble and tribulation from which none of us who belong to Jesus are exempt, as it is the arena of redemption for the faithful. Jesus' own words reverberate and echo in our minds *"I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble, but take heart! I have overcome the world"* (John 16: 33). And in (1 John 4: 4) *You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.*

We have warned for many months that men are going to be tried and to be found wanting because their trust is in the arm of the flesh which cannot save.

It is abominable to see so called men of God fawning over leaders in the political sphere. It is paramount that prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for Kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all Godliness and Holiness. We must pray for these men, but not put our trust in them. There will be earthquakes, famines and pestilence in various places and fearful events and great signs from heaven and men's hearts will fail them through fear of the events coming on the earth. The only true peace comes from Christ who is our life, who is abiding in our hearts. Get ready for greater upheavals in the financial realm, where gold and silver will not be able to save as it corrodes. The corrosion will eat your flesh like fire.

These are not my words they are the words of the apostle James (5: 3).

The warning to us all is not what do we trust in – but whom do we trust.

(Proverbs 3: 5-6) <sup>5</sup> *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding,* <sup>6</sup> *in all your ways acknowledge him and he will direct your path.*

Every man's work will be tried by fire and it will not be the evil one's purpose (though he may be an instrument). It will be Jesus' coming as John the Baptist has prophesied in (Luke 3: 16-18).

<sup>16</sup> *John answered them all, "I baptise you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the holy Spirit and with fire.*

<sup>17</sup> *His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."* <sup>18</sup> *And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them.*

You may think these words troubling, but in essence they are the truth, and the truth is good news and will set you free.

**Christianity is not a religion, it is a relationship**

Dear Friends,

To live “the way” of the Lord Jesus is to live the way that Jesus lived while he was in his humiliation. Jesus lived in obedience to his Father’s instructions and what his Father instructed him to do. Jesus walked according to what his Father showed him and he always walked in love to men and obedience to his heavenly Father.

One time Jesus was doing what his Father told him and was working on the Sabbath, some Jews persecuted him.

**John 5: 17-28**

*<sup>17</sup> Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working”. <sup>18</sup> For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him, not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was also calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. <sup>19</sup> Jesus gave them this answer: “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; He can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does, the Son also does.”<sup>20</sup> For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these. <sup>21</sup> For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. <sup>22</sup> Moreover the Father judges no-one, but has entrusted all judgement to the Son, <sup>23</sup> that all may honour the Son just as they honour the Father. He who does not honour the Son, does not honour the Father who sent him. <sup>24</sup> I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. <sup>25</sup> I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. <sup>26</sup> For as the Father has life in himself so has he granted the Son to have life in himself. <sup>27</sup> And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of man. <sup>28</sup> Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out – those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned. By myself I can do nothing, I judge only as I hear, and my judgement is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.*

Jesus emphasised his message with these words “*I tell you the truth*”. This is important.

Jesus was clearly bringing a new message into the realm of human kind. The Gospels make it clear that Jesus spoke with an authority that was not his own. His authority baffled the Jewish people and they were perplexed because this was not the authority that the Jewish Rabbis taught. The Rabbis taught the law of Moses who they believed, heard from God. This blinded their understanding to such a degree they believed they had a right to kill anyone that claimed to be in perfect relationship with Yahweh. It incensed them that Jesus a mere man was equal with God the Father.

Believers who put their full trust in Jesus and wholly repent of dead works, will draw down the wrath of man.

Even this very day it engenders anger and disdain amongst self-righteous religious people against anyone who would take the narrow path by entering the straight gate that leads to life. These fleshly minded religious elite cannot bear anybody living by faith and trusting in Jesus alone as their mentor.

The superior attitude of these religious elite say that men cannot be of God without adhering to the elite's religious beliefs, practices, instruction and oversight.

The authority of truth has within itself power to bring forth the good works of God and accomplish what Jesus wrought for all men.

There is a day or as Jesus said "a time" when all things will be brought into judgement.

Jesus is the way, the truth and the life and no man comes to the Father but through the Son.

Many may resent this truth, but the truth will bear witness to itself and accomplish what God intended.

Every man, woman or child that has graced life in the flesh will stand before God in judgement, either to life or condemnation. It is never in the hands of men to take this power into their own hands and condemn any to an eternity of darkness. God knows all things and he knows the heart of every man, his mercy overrides judgement and his judgements will be just and right.

We as created beings are called out of death and darkness to proclaim the hope of the gospel by bringing forth the word of life.

The gospel of Jesus Christ as Saviour/Redeemer/Lord and the promise of eternal life in God's kingdom is the eternal message of liberty. The kingdom of God is here now and its presence can be known and experienced through a wonderful relationship with the Father and the Son. This kingdom is one of promise and trust in God's word – this word is that Jesus Christ is the living word and he came from the Father and returned to the Father and he created a new way of living for those who believe. This kingdom was granted to men and experienced after they were filled with the Holy Spirit and divine power. The Holy Spirit teaches believers all truth about Jesus and that there is a fellowship that can be enjoyed by everyman whether Jew or Gentile. Men from every nation upon the earth now can sing praises unto God in their own language and their own tongue.

There is now no requirement for a Jewish temple to worship Yahweh. There is now no requirement for men to be circumcised in the flesh to declare their allegiance to Yahweh. There is now no requirement to obey the rituals and requirements of Moses' law to be declared righteous before God. NOW all that is required is faith in Jesus who has borne the penalty for our sin and has obliterated the written code and every regulation against us. These were nailed to the cross and God the Father has wiped the slate clean; it is a new beginning. There is now no requirement to keep the Sabbath and holy days and temple regulations. Jesus foretold the destruction of the temple would be the end of the old methods and a new way of living now encompassed the blessedness of a relationship with God the Father through his only unique and blessed Son.

#### **Colossians 2: 6-19**

*<sup>6</sup> So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. <sup>8</sup> See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. <sup>9</sup> For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in a bodily form, <sup>10</sup> and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.*

*<sup>11</sup> In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, <sup>12</sup> having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.*

*<sup>13</sup> When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you*

*alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, <sup>14</sup> having cancelled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.*

*<sup>16</sup> Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. <sup>17</sup> These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. <sup>18</sup> Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions. <sup>19</sup> He has lost connection with the head, from whom the whole body supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.*

This relationship with the Son is one of glory – where the glory of Jesus Christ is revealed in your own heart and is a relationship that transcends all other authorities and powers. The truth that this relationship is evident in your heart is that it is pure, peaceful and loving and manifests in humility and gentleness with a desire to serve and love Jesus with all your heart, soul and strength and to love your fellow man with the same strength. Jesus revealed the scope and extension of God's love saying it embraced not only those who love us and those we love but causes a love for our enemies also.

Remember what Jesus said in **John 5: 19**

*"I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself, he can do only what he sees the Father doing, because whatever the Father does, the Son also does".*

We could paraphrase this for ourselves by saying – We must allow the word of truth to abide in our hearts and be obedient to what the Lord Jesus says and does. Because the only reality of God's works, are the works that Christ does through me. Just as the Father did his works through Jesus, Christ, now he does his work through us.

When we are in true fellowship with Jesus, his word abides in us and comes alive in us as we obey him. The apostle Paul a true servant of Christ, wrote these words which I believe were similar in refrain as a hymn; which he may have sung whilst in stocks and chains in the Philippian jail.

#### **Acts 16: 25-26**

*<sup>25</sup> about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open and everybody's chains came loose.*

This hymn would have been familiar to the Philippian believers, because they would have heard Paul sing it before.

#### **Philippians 2: 5-11**

*<sup>5</sup> Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:*

*<sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God,  
Did not consider equality  
with God something to be grasped,*

*<sup>7</sup> but made himself nothing,  
taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.*

<sup>8</sup> *And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to death –  
even death on a cross!*

<sup>9</sup> *Therefore God exalted him to  
the highest place  
and gave him the name that  
is above every name,*

<sup>10</sup> *that at the name of Jesus every  
knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and  
under the earth,*

<sup>11</sup> *and every tongue confess that  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God, the Father.*

This hymnal belief brings power from the intangible and effects the tangible.

In effect what is done in the invisible realm affects the visible realm. The powers of the coming age overcome the laws of the natural world. The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus overcomes the law of sin and death.

Every time Jesus drew upon the intangible unseen power and authority of the age to come, it affected the tangible world in miracles, signs and wonders. This he did only in obedience to his Father's word.

We are also encouraged to sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, making melody in our heart unto the Lord, because the Lord inhabits the praises of his people, yet he is exalted above all blessing and praise. If Jesus is lifted up he will draw all men unto him – so great is his power. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are only exercised according to his will and always bring glory to God and not man.

Paul's message to the Philippian believers was encouraging them in their belief and to know Christ was with them and would bring them through every hardship and trial and lift them up into heavenly places.

They were to understand they were temporarily sent back into the world, but a greater destiny lay ahead of them. Their main mission was to trust in Jesus and their testimony and witness would bring others out of their misery and blindness into the kingdom of the Son of his love. This kingdom was an invisible kingdom, but brought forth the evidence in their own heart that Christ was alive in them. They were to know that they were called out of the darkness of this world but then as pilgrims of witness were sent back into the darkened world and would suffer persecution and even death, but this did not alter the truth that through these trials and tribulations Christ was always with them and he would never leave them nor forsake them and they would be resurrected with him into a manifest kingdom of God.

Paul in his imprisonment at Ephesus was like John who was imprisoned on the isle of Patmos, who in their incarceration seemed to be nullified as true ambassadors of a creation wide message of hope. Both these men were imprisoned for their faith, yet they proclaimed a crucified carpenter from Galilee was the Saviour of the world. This Saviour had been killed and murdered by the authorities of the day. In defiance of logic they proclaimed the message that Jesus had risen from the grave and was now alive. By the conditions they were confined in it would seem hopeless and their message outrageous if

they were to rely on tangible forces. They had no pulpit but their cell or cave to proclaim this truth. Their total reliance was on intangible things – the things the Holy Spirit brought to their remembrance – the truth that was in Jesus – the reality of the gospel conveyed the power of the truth that began to alter their own thinking and also the thinking of those who they ministered to. This is the truth of the power of the gospel that comes from Christ within, it is the message of eternal life and those that have passed from death to life proclaim it and allow the power of Jesus Christ to bring life out of death.

Paul would go on to say that he put no confidence in the flesh to count as a benefit, in fact he said all that was as rubbish and dung in comparison to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus his Lord for whose sake he had lost all things that he might gain Christ. He wanted to be found in him, not having a righteousness of his own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ – the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. Paul went on to a greater depth of understanding knowing he was not made perfect and was no better or wiser than any other man but that he wanted a deeper relationship with the one he loved.

*I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death and somehow to attain to the resurrection out from among the dead.*

**Philippians 3: 10.**

The reason that the gospel of the kingdom is not preached with the authority of Christ today, is because men are standing in the holy place that belongs to Jesus and wielding authority that does not even resemble the truth of Christ and his kingdom.

I will put down some pointers that will help resolve this dilemma.

When a person is born again from above they are born again not by the will of men, but by the will of God. They can then see the kingdom of God and then they can enter it. Now flesh and blood cannot enter the kingdom of God, so a born again believer must enter God's kingdom by faith in God's promises which are all fulfilled in Christ. This takes us out of the tangible world into an intangible kingdom that is not of this world. This kingdom is hidden, but not a secret kingdom that has to be known through secret formulas and Gnosticism or secret knowledge. No this kingdom is hidden from the arrogant and proud and opened to the humble and the meek. This kingdom which is ruled by Jesus is a kingdom ruled by the divine nature of love, wisdom and humility and is exceedingly joyful. This results in a loving personal relationship with Jesus who lives and intercedes for his own beyond the veil of the flesh.

The truth that gentleness, humility and love along with mercy and forgiveness is the nature of the presence of God that is revealed to the humble in the face of Jesus Christ.

The nature of the kingdom of God is the nature of a lamb. This nature is obedient and loyal to the Father no matter how evil and strenuous are the circumstances that may come. Jesus learned obedience as a man through the things he suffered and was tempted on all points, yet he opened not his mouth and submitted to death itself, a humiliating death upon a cross. This is the nature that Christ puts in the true believer's heart who is born again from above.

Paul wrote in **Philippians 1: 29**

*"For it has been granted you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him".*

There is a suffering on account of sin which comes through unbelief and causes us to cry out for mercy and help. But there is a suffering for righteousness which brings us into a greater trust of obedience

which reveals the overcoming power of Christ's resurrection and love. This happens when you know it is not your strength, but Christ working in your heart.

Paul who was a true servant of God, but yet not perfect, gives testimony to the truth of the gospel that trusting in Jesus and obeying his word reaps eternal benefits. These benefits defy the logic of the world's wisdom and brings a form of godliness with heavenly power. This power is revealed in the following scriptures.

**Philippians 1: 3-6**

*<sup>3</sup> I thank God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup> In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy, <sup>5</sup> because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup> being confident of this – that he that began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

Dear friends and reader, Jesus has started a good work in you and it is your faith in Christ that is completing this holy work in your heart that brings true and strengthened belief. This strengthened belief comes by the Spirit of Christ and is not determined by or a reliance on men.

**Philippians 2: 12-16**

*<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. <sup>14</sup> Do everything without complaining or arguing, <sup>15</sup> so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine as stars in the universe <sup>16</sup> as you hold out the word of life.*

Dear friends and readers, we must be like Paul and press on into God's kingdom of love, joy and peace. We are not called to resolve the works of darkness of this world but, are called to overcome the darkness of this world and walk in the light of life by faith. We must also forget the past and ask forgiveness for past sins and embrace the joyful freedom and liberty of new life as a sinner saved by grace, through faith in Jesus alone.

Dear friends and readers in the book of Philippians it is written by Paul.

**Philippians 4: 19**

*That my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. To the glory of God our Father.*

What are the glorious riches in Christ Jesus?

**Colossians 1: 25-27** Paul answers this question.

*<sup>25</sup> I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness – <sup>26</sup> the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. <sup>27</sup> To them God has chosen to make known to the gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

Yes, the glorious riches, is Christ within you, leading, guiding and teaching you the truth as you humble yourself under God's mighty hand. We are not to lean on our own understanding that is passed on through the logic of the darkened wisdom of the world. This darkened wisdom flourishes in the tangible world of appearances as its power is to draw you from trust in God's word and faith in Jesus Christ. We are to live by faith and not by sight.



The seen world cannot reveal to you the loving relationship that can be encountered by faith in Christ. What appears as righteousness is not always the way of the Lord. People around us always like to portray that they are the righteous ones and they bring judgement on all those that don't abide in their interpretations of holiness.

We must test the spirits to see whether they are of God. In the new covenant with God there is only one Lord, one faith, on baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. The light of life revealed through Jesus, the living word of God will expose and bring to judgement the truth of all things, so it behoves us to live in God's kingdom where Jesus is the only real teacher and the revealer of God our Father. Jesus came from the Father and he returned to the Father and will come and take us back to the Father. This is the promise that Jesus will keep to all who hear his voice and the strangers voice they will not follow.

We here at church built of living stones, do not stand in the place of the living Lord, but as servants with you endeavour to encourage you to live in a loving relationship with Jesus as your Lord/Saviour/Redeemer.

The last word of encouragement we proclaim comes from 2 Corinthians.

**2 Corinthians 13: 4-5.**

*<sup>4</sup> For to be sure he was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by God's power. Likewise, we are weak in him, yet by God's power we will live with him to serve you. <sup>5</sup> Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realise that Christ Jesus is in you – unless, of course, you fail the test?*

You alone are the one that can hinder the Holy Spirit working the Spirit of Christ in your life. Fear, unbelief, selfishness and disobedience hinder the glory of Christ being revealed in you.

Dear friends forget what is behind and press towards the prize. Remain in the love of God that never fails and casts out all fear.

**Philippians 3: 19-2**

*<sup>19</sup> Their mind is on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.*

Jesus is the only one entrusted by God the Father to perform this promise. This is the power God the Father has given to Jesus and this is the promise Jesus has given us.

Jesus we love you and adore you and we want to know you more. To know Jesus is our hearts desire and to reside in his eternal kingdom of goodness is our hope.

May God the Father cause his face to shine upon you and bring you into his eternal kingdom where there is no fear, death or sorrow.

Bill and Sue (servants of Christ)

If you would like to make a reply or contact us, please email [info@churchbuiltoflivingstones.com](mailto:info@churchbuiltoflivingstones.com)