

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.

**To be “in Christ” is to be born anew and enter into Christ’s Kingdom**

**Isaiah 52: 3**

*For this is what the Lord says: You were sold for nothing, and without money you will be redeemed.*

Dear friends, servants and children of God,

The Lord’s people were taken away for nothing and those who rule over them mock and wail. All day long his name is constantly blasphemed and the knowledge of the glory of God is hidden under a bushel. But the people of the Lord honour his name in the Day of the Lord and constantly allow the Holy Spirit to bring Jesus to their remembrance because to know the Lord and the one whom he sent, is eternal life.

Jesus is the one he sent and it’s the Holy Spirit that brings to remembrance the name of the Lord. To be known by God and have your mind stayed on him by remembering the Lord Jesus becomes “perfected peace” that surpasses understanding. This is the “peace” the Lord gives and is the peace the world cannot give. Only those who walk in humility and meekness and love the Lord with all their heart soul and mind, know this peace.

**Isaiah 52: 7-12**

<sup>7</sup> *How beautiful on the mountains*

*are the feet of those who bring good news,  
who proclaim peace,  
who bring good tidings,  
who proclaim salvation,  
who say to Zion,  
“Your God reigns!”*

<sup>8</sup> *Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices;  
together they shout for joy.*

*When the LORD returns to Zion,  
they will see it with their own eyes.*

<sup>9</sup> *Burst into songs of joy together,  
you ruins of Jerusalem,  
for the LORD has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.*

<sup>10</sup> *The LORD will lay bare his holy arm  
in the sight of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth will see  
the salvation of our God.*

<sup>11</sup> *Depart, depart, go out from there!  
Touch no unclean thing!  
Come out from it and be pure,  
you who carry the articles of the LORD’s house.*

<sup>12</sup> *But you will not leave in haste  
or go in flight;  
for the LORD will go before you,  
the God of Israel will be your rear guard.*

Salvation, right-standing, justification and redemption are all workings of the Lord God almighty and are not the works or doctrines created by men. They are the outstanding works of God the Father accomplished through Jesus Christ upon the cross of Calvary and now revealed to sinful mankind by the Holy Spirit. This truth that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life is granted to the meek and humble of heart who hold this truth as a “pearl of great price”. This is the works of God, that we believe on him (our Father) and whom he has sent (Jesus his only begotten Son).

No one who blasphemes and curses the Lord Jesus is of God or the Holy Spirit. Anyone who denies Jesus has come in the flesh is not of God. Anyone who denies God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, has not been taught of the Lord through the Holy Spirit.

### **Isaiah 52: 13-15**

<sup>13</sup> *See, my servant will act wisely*

*he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.*

<sup>14</sup> *Just as there were many who were appalled at him—*

*his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man  
and his form marred beyond human likeness—*

<sup>15</sup> *so he will sprinkle many nations*

*and kings will shut their mouths because of him.*

*For what they were not told, they will see,*

*and what they have not heard, they will understand.*

Jesus Christ God’s only begotten Son, humbled himself and through divine conception was born of the virgin Mary, a woman of great blessedness. This woman chosen because of her faith in God hid the word in her heart and overturned all the failings of Eve the mother of Cain, Abel and Seth. Mary is not to be worshipped, but to be honoured, as are all women of faith in Jesus Christ who are now blessed if they continue in the ways of the Lord.

Jesus was made in the likeness of sinful flesh and this was the beginning of his humiliation, he endured the shame and ignominy of the cross and bore the penal suffering of death on a cruel cross of crucifixion, this was the end, his final humiliation. The wages of sin is death, and all our iniquities and transgressions were laid on him. The truth of the gospel is that the believer is freed from the penalty of sin and death along with all transgressions so that he or she can live in the kingdom of God with Christ now. Living by faith in his resurrection out from among the dead, we become a new creation in Christ and the invisible is made real to the true believer through faith in Christ’s atoning sacrifice.

We now live by faith and not by sight. We are no longer cowards who live in tormented fear of God, but are made courageous through Christ who strengthens us in the “inner man”. We live as branches attached to the vine who is Christ so that Christ might abide in us. God the Father is the husbandman over this vineyard, he is the caretaker, owner and protector of all who dwell in Christ.

We are not of those who draw back into perdition nor those who put our trust for right-standing with God through the law or dead works. We refuse to be like the children of Israel who hankered for the leeks and garlic and the comforts of Egypt or become like Lot’s wife who looked back and desired the comforts of the world and the desires of Sodom and Gomorrah and was turned into a pillar of salt who had lost its savour.

We as followers of Christ, must not desire or allow the temptation to return to the world that Christ has set us free from. A shallow worldly repentance from dead works and a half-hearted faith in God will only bring an unstable double mind and you will receive nothing from the Lord. The only righteousness that God accepts is your true faith in Jesus Christ. The gospel of God is not based on the worthiness of the

believer, but on the basis of the worthiness of Jesus Christ. It is God the Father who “calls things that be not as though they were”. It is only Christ who justifies and Christ is of God.

The Christian walk is one filled with many paradoxes which confound the seeker, but as always, our thoughts are not his thoughts and our ways are not his ways. Just because our assumptions and presumptions do not bring the peace we dearly seek, we must be honest enough with ourselves and tell God that we have been seeking and praying for the wrong things and in the wrong way. Men’s doctrines and ideas will lead to despair and contentious results. God’s ways are always right. There is no man living or dead that can open the way back to the Father, but the Son Jesus Christ and he alone is “the way, the truth and the life” back to our eternal Father and Godhead. We are called to strive to enter the straight gate and walk the narrow path that leads to life. Sometimes there are struggles of violent ordeals to overcome before we can enter, but these struggles must be met and overcome with God’s armoury of gentleness and humility in love of the truth.

#### **Matthew 11: 25-30**

*<sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. <sup>26</sup> Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do. <sup>27</sup> “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. <sup>28</sup> “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”*

Jesus left his heavenly glory home and unaided by any prior knowledge or prior understanding, endured all temptations that are common to every man. After tempting Jesus for 40 days and 40 nights in the desert wilderness, Satan left him for a season, but continued to attack and tempt him on a daily basis. Jesus set his heart like a flint and learned and obeyed his calling and destiny through faith in the scriptures that revealed who he was. He learnt obedience through the things he suffered. Jesus was the one that found the portal into the Kingdom of God was through a small straight gate and a narrow path that led him back to his heavenly home. He discovered and pioneered the way of truth and life that came from heaven, was only opened to the meek and the humble. Jesus began his true calling and destiny after his baptism by John in the river Jordan. The Holy Spirit descended on him like a dove. From now on, Jesus’ journey was directed by obedience and prayerfulness to his heavenly Father, who had openly declared Jesus was his only begotten Son. From now on Jesus would walk in humility and gentleness to achieve the purpose and plan of God which was to bring many adopted sons into glory. He now entered the realm of Satan’s corrupted earthly domain and began to destroy the works of the devil and take captivity captive. He entered the strongman’s house of lies and deceits and overcame every false thing by the truth. In scripture, when it declares that Jesus said; “Truly, truly, I say unto you”, this written word is emphasising that it is a truthful saying. Jesus’ sayings are worthy of our total unbiased obedience and acceptance.

Every word of prophecy of the scripture can be reliably and faithfully accepted and adhered to, as it is more solid and real than the earth we stand upon. All matter and created things will pass away, and what then do you have to stand upon? “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my word will abide forever”. The truth is that every saying and every intention of Christ will come to pass. Do you as a believer in Jesus, believe this? If this is not your testimony, cry out to the Lord to help you in your unbelief.

*For without faith it is impossible to please God, and he who comes to Him must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them who diligently seek him. (Hebrews 11: 6).*

As we have stated before, no man before or after Jesus can lead you back to the Father. The question can be asked – then what hope have we as believers? We have hope in every way because we are saved by hope. Our hope is in the name of the Lord. We must all be taught of the Lord who is the Spirit of hope. You may ask, surely some man can teach us about God? No! There is no man that can teach you about God the Father and his Son Jesus. The only person that can teach you is the Holy Spirit who never violates the scripture or the person of Jesus. How can this be? This is because the Holy Spirit inspired all scripture and revealed the prophetic word within the inspired scripture. This prophetic word is revealed as the logos or God's only begotten Son. This prophetic "word" is a person and that person is Jesus. We are not to worship Peter, Paul or Apollos, but to honour them as gifts of God along with all holy men and prophets of the bible, because they all testify of Jesus who in turn testifies that his Father is the true invisible only wise God. Jesus' testimony is true.

The father of lies, Satan, often appears as an angel of light and generates words and ideas that appear as the truth through the agency of false teachers and prophets. Conspiracy theories abound which declare certain political and religious men are harbingers of lies, and declare they have the panaceas for all the problems of mankind and this world. Men operating in corrupted worldly power inveigled by Satan use the love of money which is the root of all evil to engender strife, envy and wars in this world. This is clear proof that the love of the world and the deceitfulness of riches along with the ungodly power of "might is right" is the stock and trade of the rulers in the natural world. When this prevails in the hearts of unregenerate men it manifests openly through fear and not the loving teachings of Christ. Christ's teachings reveal the goal of the gospel of Christ and what his kingdom will produce. The goal of Jesus and his Father is that we are resurrected out of the world of Satan and lying demons which had previously dominated our hearts and minds. We are then granted a blood washed conscience and a mind which is filled with Christ's knowledge which enables us to reach the purity of love in the wisdom of humility. The love of God casts out all fear, because fear has torment. There is no torment in Christ's kingdom only love, joy and peace in the Holy Spirit. It is the Father's good pleasure to grant us entrance into God's kingdom through the new birth.

We are asked by Jesus to trust him above our own understanding and live with him in an unseen world which is then made real to us by faith. Christ is not now seen but he is remembered. He lives in our minds when we remember him in love, which enables us to observe our destiny and future when dwelling in his presence. Christ is not now seen, but he is at work and not afar off when we seek him and ask him for help in the present moment. He says to call upon him while he is near and he will show us great and mighty things we know not of. Our imagination is enlightened when we see his image which is one of gentleness, compassion and everlasting power. This power of love manifests itself in the great example of Christ as he humbly endured the accusations and trials that resulted in false judgements against him which were authored by carnally minded men through religious and political institutions and schemes. He opened not his mouth and as a sheep before their shearers is dumb, he was as a lamb led to the slaughter. He reviled not against his accusers, but said; "Father forgive them for the know not what they do".

Yes, the paramount manifestation of the truth in any person's life, heart and mind, is whether they forgive or hold their soul destroying attitudes within their being. Only God forgives. To forgive, is to believe the gospel and the gift of forgiveness comes to those who obey the gospel of Christ. Forgiveness is a gift granted to the humble of heart. Pride of heart is what excludes entrance into Christ's kingdom. Pride always displays arrogance and superiority that believes that the praises of men are more to be desired than a pure heart before God. God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

The “WAY” that Jesus teaches of, is that the “WAY” back to God is not in superiority, but is willingly submitting yourself under God’s mighty hand in meekness and humility. We are not to make ourselves of high reputation, but make the exalted reputation of Jesus the paramount intention.

Dear seeker, let us not think more highly than we ought to think, but think soberly according to the gift of faith God has granted us. Wait patiently, but expectantly and God will raise you up in due time. The false premise is that he will raise you up to be something in this world, but this is the way of the religious and the ungodly. This is not the teaching of Christ. Jesus raises us up in glory into his kingdom of love, joy and peace where we serve Christ in a manner that pleases God and is approved by men.

We are in this world of sorrow and heartache to proclaim what is true; that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life and no man comes to the Father but through the Son. Anyone who teaches contrary to this is a thief and a robber of God’s rightful glory and honour and will be a leader of the blind and all will fall into the abyss. Descent into animism and ancestor worship or trust in the world of law and commandments for righteousness before God, instead of faith in “the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus” begins a slippery slope to destruction. The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus sets us free from the law of sin and death. The life that the true believer lives in the flesh is now living by the faith of the Son of God who loved us and who died for us. He cancelled every hand writing and ordinance that was against us by nailing the “old” to the tree at Calvary and setting us free to worship in spirit and in truth. We now present our bodies as living sacrifices in reasonable service of worship, instead of using them to produce dead works. We overcome by the blood of the lamb the dead works of temple worship, works born out of uncircumcised hearts, sabbath day observances and reliance on the works of the law which all nullify the power of faith in Christ and Christ alone. We now have access to the throne of grace through an eternal Priest after the order of Melchizedek – Jesus Christ. He ever lives to make intercession for us in our weakness and strengthens us to obey God’s will and purpose. Why? so that we might know God’s great will, his perfect will, his pleasing will and his will transforms us by the renewing of our mind. This renewing of our mind through God’s goodness and mercy is the cause for Godly repentance so that we can now worship God in spirit and truth while we live in this body of death. It is not a sin to live in the flesh otherwise Jesus would have been a sinner when he was clothed in flesh. No, he came in the likeness of sinful flesh, but was without sin. Though he willingly condescended to be clothed in the weakness of the flesh and was tempted in all counts as we are, he never succumbed to the temptations of the flesh. He was cajoled and tempted to obey the master tempter, but for our sakes he endured every voice and prompting that was not the voice of his Father. He never said or did anything that he had not seen or heard his Father do. No man other than Jesus can claim this steadfast walk whilst in the flesh. It is not a sin to be in the flesh, but it is a sin to obey and walk after the flesh. We must confess this sin as sin unto God. This is why any claim to worship any other man or woman including “Mary the mother of Jesus” is false. We may give honour to saintly people but we must remember that they were granted gifts to bring glory to God. To give them any power or authority above this state is to operate in wisdom from beneath, which is first earthly, unspiritual and devilish. (James 3: 15). We are all one in Christ.

We are in this corrupt world not to change it or transform it, but to bring an end to its power and authority over all men and proclaim the Lordship of Jesus Christ and his glorious kingdom. This kingdom draws near and is here now by faith but is yet to be made manifest to all men. Jesus came in the power of this kingdom and revealed through the hand of God and the Holy Spirit, its presence through miracles and good works which gave all the glory to God. A wicked and adulterous generation seeks miracles, signs, wonders and the loaves and fishes instead of seeking to enter God’s kingdom. By the Spirit of holiness, Jesus was raised back up into his rightful heavenly glory and his message and presence was preached on in the world by his disciples and followers. He raises up sinful men into his kingdom of love then sends them back into a corrupt world to plant the seed and to water the seed. This seed is Christ in you, the hope of glory. He then sends angels (messengers) to reap the harvest of souls. The fields are

ready for harvest. We must pray the Lord will send labourers into his field. The field is ready to reap and sweep millions into the kingdom of God.

The end of the world is already taking place in men's hearts and minds and we like the five virgins in the parable must be patiently waiting in expectant readiness for the Master's appearing. This appearing of Jesus is a fluid happening and can happen at any time in any place.

The words "prepared" and "ready" both come from the basic Greek word "Hetoimos".

Prepared = hetoimos = ready through work already done.

Ready = hetoimazo = get ready.

We must be prepared and ready.

### **Matthew 25: 1-13**

<sup>1</sup> "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish and five were wise. <sup>3</sup> The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. <sup>4</sup> The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. <sup>5</sup> The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. <sup>6</sup> "At midnight the cry rang out; 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' <sup>7</sup> "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup> The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' <sup>9</sup> "No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' <sup>10</sup> "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. <sup>11</sup> "Later the others also came, 'Sir! Sir! They said, 'Open the door for us!' <sup>12</sup> "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.' <sup>13</sup> "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

Five virgins were wise and took their lamps and extra oil in jars. We, as jars of clay must be ready and waiting, because our presumptions cause us to fall into deep sleep but when we hear the voice of our Master, He will appear to us and we must be ready to meet him. To rest with a humble heart in expectancy of the Lord's appearing is to be prepared and ready as a wise child of God.

In relation to the ten virgins; Five virgins had prepared beforehand by filling their jars with extra oil in case the bridegroom was delayed. They were prepared and ready.

The other five virgins were ready, but they were not prepared. They were leaning on the preparation of others and were found wanting because of their foolishness.

The five virgins who were prepared and ready went into the banquet with the bridegroom at the wedding and the door was shut.

The five foolish virgins came back to the door (which is Christ) and tried to enter in.

They cried Sir! (Lord) Sir! (Lord) let us in and they heard the most devastating words of the whole body of scripture.

### **JESUS SAID; "I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I DON'T KNOW YOU".**

As we said before, when Jesus says "I tell you the truth" you can rest assured it is the truth. Jesus is the truth and what he says is truth because there is no lie in him.

Let us recall the message of Jesus in the gospel of Matthew encouraging all to ask, seek and knock, and to enter through the straight gate and watch out for false prophets. Then the final devastating admonishment, not everyone who says Lord, Lord is of God. Then the same message that was given to the five foolish virgins is repeated in this passage of scripture.



## **Matthew 7: 7-23**

<sup>7</sup> “Ask and it will be given you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>9</sup> “Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup> Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? <sup>11</sup> If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! <sup>12</sup> So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. <sup>13</sup> “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. <sup>14</sup> But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. <sup>15</sup> “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. <sup>16</sup> By their fruit you will recognise them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Thus, by their fruit you will recognise them. <sup>21</sup> “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup> Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophecy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ <sup>23</sup> **THEN I WILL TELL THEM PLAINLY, ‘I NEVER KNEW YOU, AWAY FROM ME, YOU EVILDOERS!’**

It is foolishness to defy the living God. We would rather be a fool for Christ than for him to say - “You were not prepared or ready when I was willing to appear to you. You were not desiring my appearing, you wanted the praises of men and the riches of this world more than my appearing”.

The gospel of Christ had been revealed to Paul and he boldly passes on this testimony to Timothy declaring the truth of Jesus which had been taught to him by the Spirit of truth. The Holy Spirit always brings Jesus to our remembrance and this testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy.

## **2 Timothy 1: 7-10**

<sup>7</sup> For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, love and of self-discipline. <sup>8</sup> So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, <sup>9</sup> who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, <sup>10</sup> but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Paul then speaks in the presence of God and Christ Jesus.

## **2 Timothy 4: 1-8**

<sup>1</sup> In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: <sup>2</sup> Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. <sup>3</sup> For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. <sup>4</sup> They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. <sup>5</sup> But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. <sup>6</sup> For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Do you love and desire the appearing and the coming of the Lord or have you grown tired of waiting and seek other foolish and vain things, such as renown, praise of men, mammon and worldly endorsements, a righteousness through the law, rather than of Christ appearing in your heart and mind? If this is the case, then repent and return to the Bishop of your soul and become the sheep of his pasture.

Jesus spoke about his sheep in the gospel of John.

*<sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognise a stranger's voice. (John 10: 4 & 5).*

*"My sheep listen to my voice; **I know them** and they follow me". (John 10: 27).*

A true teacher and servant of Christ will teach you to put your trust in Jesus for all knowledge and direction and not to put your trust in the traditions and doctrines of men. The arm of the flesh will fail you and will not grant you access into Christ's kingdom. The gospel of Christ and his kingdom must be preached in all the earth before the end will come. What "end" is the scripture referring to? It is the end of the old world age and the beginning of the coming age the new creation in Christ. Jesus is the alpha and the omega – the beginning and the end. Jesus is the end of the old world and the beginning of the new creation.

### **1 Corinthians 6: 9-11**

*<sup>9</sup> Do you not know the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders <sup>10</sup> nor thieves nor greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup> **And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.***

### **1 Corinthians 1: 26-31**

*<sup>26</sup> **Brothers, think of what you were when you were called.** Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. <sup>28</sup> He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things – and the things that are not – to nullify the things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one may boast before him. <sup>30</sup> It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God – that is our righteousness, holiness and redemption. <sup>31</sup> Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."*

### **Jeremiah 9: 23-24**

*23 This is what the Lord says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strongman boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, 24 but let him who boasts boast about this: that I am the Lord who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in this I delight," declares the Lord.*

Has the end of the world come to you and have you found the pearl of great price and given up all the world and its falsehoods and desires. Only acceptance of Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God can overcome the spirit of the world. Jesus said; "Fear not for I have overcome the world" and "He who believes in me and endures to the end of the world will not perish, but have eternal life". Do you know if your name is written in the Lamb's book of life? If not, ask, seek, knock and it will be opened unto you.

### **Bill and Sue**

(Servants and friends of Christ and his body, the new Jerusalem that comes out of heaven from God).