

May 2021

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 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"*. 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.

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, 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 the John the Baptist has prophesied in (Luke 3: 16-18).

*16 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.*

*17 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." 18 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.

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May 2021 Message

Is the Lord Jesus Christ and His Kingdom your desire, or do you seek other things?

Isaiah 61: 1-3 & 7

¹ *The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners
(blind)*

² *to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,*

³ *and provide for those who grieve in Zion—
to bestow on them a crown of beauty
instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness*

*instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise
instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD
for the display of his splendour.*

⁷ *Instead of their shame
my people will receive a double portion,
and instead of disgrace
they will rejoice in their inheritance.
And so they will receive a double portion in the
land,
and everlasting joy will be theirs.*

Dear Friends,

The prophecy of gracious Isaiah is jam packed and loaded with Godly promises that thrill our hearts because they were brought to completion in Jesus the Christ or the anointed One. This scripture is worthy of our meditation and study to allow our teacher (the Christ) to bring to our remembrance the mercy and kindness of our Heavenly Father.

Firstly, the Spirit of the Sovereign Lord was upon Jesus. Can you receive the magnitude of this statement – “the Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me”. This is the Spirit of revelation of the sovereignty of God. A revelation of the only true and wise God – the blessed Potentate – ruler of all men. The King above every other king – the only One who has true royalty and who determines all things. Who rules in power by grace, mercy, gentleness and meekness, calling all men and every created thing to bow in humility under his powerful hand.

The Sovereign Lord who determines all things, knows all things, yet in the wisdom of humility grants free will to all men who are and were created in his image. Although all men retain the image of God, they do not keep faithful to the nature and likeness of God. God the Father has called all men everywhere to repent and turn from their iniquities and rebellion. He grants grace and mercy to all who obey his call. In the historic stories of grace that are written for our example in scripture, it is clear to see that there are cycles of rebellion and return. These cycles of rebellion and return are reciprocated by God the Father with judgement against rebellion and forgiveness in returning to God and his purpose.

Isaiah graciously relayed the heart of God to all men when he spoke in (Isaiah 1: 18-20).

*¹⁸ “Come now, let us reason together,”
says the LORD.*

*“Though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red as crimson,
they shall be like wool.*

*¹⁹ If you are willing and obedient,
you will eat the best of the land;*

*²⁰ but if you resist and rebel,
you will be devoured by the sword.”*

For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

How gracious is our God who casts our sins into the sea of forgetfulness and remembers our sins no more. The cycle of “rebellion and return” of the prodigal son and the cycle of “judgement and forgiveness” by the Father is exemplified in this parable in (Luke 15: 11-31). Read this.

This message is repeated again and again throughout scripture if the humble seeking heart looks for it.

The dimness and foggiess generated by blindness and pride clouds the true meaning of any interpretation of creation and redemption. The Holy Spirit is the only true interpreter of scripture.

Scholarly teaching which relies on human tradition and wisdom will not deliver men from sin. It is the Spirit of Christ that imparts the truth by revelation to men’s minds, he does not use worldly methods of accumulated knowledge to impart the thoughts of God.

Jesus the Lamb of God is the only way that man can be delivered from the ravages of sin. John the Baptist the greatest prophet born of women was right when he declared “behold the Lamb of God who

takes away the sin of the world”. Who was this lamb of God? This was Jesus the One that Isaiah spoke of, the One that the Spirit of the Sovereign Lord came upon. The same One that John the Baptist proclaimed was the Lamb of God.

John the Baptist testified in the scripture of (John 1: 32-34).

³² “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. ³³ I would not have known him, except that the One who sent me to baptise with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptise with the Holy Spirit’. ³³ I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God”.

What an amazing example of how a man called to prepare the way of the Lord, was given the step by step revelation to accomplish the will of God. He spent years being prepared in the wilderness to bring forth a message of repentance and to baptise in water as a sign of that repentance. After living a life of dedication in the humblest of circumstances spent in the desert. His diet was locusts and honey, his clothing was camel’s hair and a leather belt. His teacher was the Holy Spirit and his obedience was to God. His understanding may have been incomplete, but his obedience to what he was given by God is without question.

This poses the question to us, “do we need to know everything?” The answer has to be that not all things are revealed to us, but what is revealed must be held tightly in our heart and mind and not to have a double mind that changes with every wind of doctrine.

(Mark 4: 21-25)

21 Jesus said to them, “Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don’t you put it on its stand? 22 For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open. 23 If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.” 24 “Consider carefully what you hear,” he continued. “With the measure you use, it will be measured to you – an even more. 25 Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.”

The true believer knows of his blindness and continually seeks Jesus and his kingdom in its full glory. We live by faith and not by sight.

It is not by accumulated knowledge we are granted God’s kingdom. It is what is revealed to us through the Spirit of Christ. Faith comes to us through the Word of Christ. Christ Jesus is the Lamb of God and he was the fullness of the Godhead in a bodily form. If we desire and seek first the kingdom of God and his revealed justice, we will be taught of the Lord. We then are accountable to the word Christ has taught us. We retain the truth and sell it not. By the gentleness of Christ let his word abide in your heart and bring the evidence of life eternal.

Let us look again at our opening text, proclaimed by Isaiah and any other scriptures where we can gain understanding of his words.

Luke reiterated Isaiah’s revelation in (Luke 4: 18) and they were appropriated to Jesus.

*¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight to the blind,*

*to release the oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.*

Jesus the Messiah, son of God went into Galilee and taught in their synagogues and returned to Nazareth his home town.

On the Sabbath he went into the synagogue as was his custom and read from the scroll which we understand was Isaiah 61. After reading this he made a declaration that stunned the listeners *"today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing"*.

Even though the people marvelled at his glorious words they quickly reverted to what their eyes and minds perceived. They saw Jesus as a fellow citizen of their town and not as the One anointed sent by God. Their wonderment and amazement soon turned to fury and rage with the desire to kill and murder the One God had approved of. This scenario is repeated again and again throughout scripture where the nature of the evil one is manifested against the righteous ones.

Cain against Abel;
People against the prophets;
Herod against John the Baptist;
Pharisees against Jesus;
Religious against the true believer;
Evil against good;

This cycle of rebellion against God and those that obediently practice righteousness occurs now, but we must be like Jesus and let God the Holy Spirit deliver the judgement and mercy of the Sovereign Lord who perfectly knows all things.

Let us return to the sayings of Isaiah which Jesus said was fulfilled on the day in Nazareth.

It was the proclamation of the fulfilment of the law and the prophets in the man Christ Jesus.

This was the proclamation of good news.

Good news has to be better news than what the people were receiving at that point in time. The good news is the gospel that the anointed One – the One who the people were looking for had arrived. The sad news about the good news is the people that did not repent rejected what God had given for their deliverance. (John 3: 16-17).

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his One and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.

That is the positive good news that had never been proclaimed or revealed to the world before.

The negative side to the good news is declared in (John 1: 11-13).

¹¹ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. "He came unto his own, but his own did not receive him, ¹² yet to all who received him, to those that believed on his name, he gave the right to become children of God – ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of a husband's will, but born of God.

The good news of God's Son coming into the world to save and deliver, and redeem is a message of grace and hope. This hope is the substance of our faith and gives us the evidence of things that are invisible.

Jesus the Son of God brought to this world the evidence of life beyond the grave and those that trust and believe will reap a harvest of the truth. This reaping is the harvest of eternal life gifted to those who trust and believe in the righteousness of Jesus Christ for their salvation.

The kingdom that Jesus brought to earth is not a spatial kingdom, it is a kingdom that Jesus described to Pontius Pilate. Pontius Pilate knew that even though Jesus proclaimed his royalty as a King, he posed no threat to the Roman Empire. How do we know this? Because he said "I find no basis for a charge against this man". Jesus himself declared to Pilate his kingdom was not of this world. His kingdom was from another place. Pilate understood Jesus was not talking of a worldly kingdom, but of a kingdom of truth. This is why he asked "what is truth?". Pilate was astute enough to know the only ones threatened by Jesus were the religious elite – the ruling Jews.

Jesus then testified the reason he was born; the reason he came into this world was to testify to the truth. (John 18: 37).

³⁷ "You are a king, then!" said Pilate.

Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

The kingdom Jesus brought from heaven is the unseen kingdom that does not come by observation and cannot be found "over there" or "over here". But is found within us or among us. It is a kingdom that is internalised in us as "truth". This kingdom is not a church or institution, it is not man-made, it does not need a temple or an Aaronic type priesthood. This kingdom does not need temple worship because in this city or kingdom, the glory of God gives it light and the Lamb is its lamp. It has a life style different to this world and its methods, it is the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, it is the life of love against which there is no law. There is no Sabbath because the works of God are complete. When we cease from our own labours the works of God are complete. This is the works of God that we believe on him and whom he has sent.

There is no need for ritualistic circumcision as a sign that we are children of faith. The true circumcision is the circumcision of the heart. The One who has the laws of God written on the fleshly tablets of their heart and no longer needs a man to teach his neighbour or a man his brother because they will all be taught of the Lord.

The prophecy of (Isaiah 61) which was fulfilled in Jesus (Luke 4: 21) is now given to the world as a gift of God in Jesus Christ.

All Christ's righteousness is credited to our account when we by faith believe God's word.

The good news is that the works of God are to believe in Jesus Christ.

The broken hearted will be comforted.

Those in captivity will be freed by the truth and the truth is in Jesus and will make you free.

The light of life in Christ can become the light for your soul and we need not walk in darkness.

God's favour is ours and we need not fear what men fear.

God in his manifest wisdom will avenge all wrong doing and all injustices.

Those that live in the shadow of death need not fear evil.

Those that grieve in Zion or the bondages of ritualistic worship need not fear any loss, for they will be filled with the Spirit of praise.

The crown of beauty we receive is the same crown Jesus delivered to us – it is the crown of everlasting life which is found in the paradise of God.

We will be the garden that will declare is a planting of the Lord. Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots.

The oil of gladness which is given us comes through the Holy Ghost – this is in God's kingdom of righteousness, peace and joy and those that serve Christ in this manner are pleasing to God and approved by men.

Believers are oaks of righteousness, those planted by the Lord for a display of his splendour. They believe the One whom he sent and put not their trust in the arm of the flesh but put their trust in the Lord – always and every way.

Let your heart and mouth testify to what you believe and Jesus will honour you before the Father and his angels.

Let us take the testimony of Christ's servant Paul as our own.

(2 Corinthians 2: 14-17).

¹⁴ But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. ¹⁵ For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. ¹⁶ To the One we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to the task? ¹⁷ Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.

What a pleasure, what a privilege, that by the freedom of wisdom in humility we can serve the living God, the only true God who is the way – the truth – and the life. Who has given us much to be grateful and thankful for – he has given us Jesus his only Son and entrance into his glorious kingdom through the new birth. Now in Christ we are a new creation, trees of righteousness the planting of the Lord.

Thank you dear Lord.

We witness and testify the truth is in Jesus.

We gladly serve the One who loved us and died for us.

Bill and Sue (servants of Christ)

If you would like to make a reply or contact us, please email info@churchbuilttolivingstones.com