

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).

*<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.

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November 2021 Message

"He has Risen"

Dear Friends,

We pray that you grow and be strong in the Lord even as your soul prospers. May this message bless your heart.

Mark 10: 32-34

³² They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again he took the twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him.

³³ "We are going up to Jerusalem. He said.

"And the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, ³⁴ who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise."

In this text, we are confronted with the words of Jesus concerning future events that would take place. The chief person in this drama story is Jesus himself, the protagonist proclaiming the future in the realm of the prophetic. The antagonists described by Mark are the ruling religious elite, namely the chief priest, the teachers of the law and the gentiles. These so called godly religious authorities would hand the Lord of Glory over to the unbelieving gentiles, who would then do

despicable things to Christ. Why did these religious leaders do this? because they lacked the authority to exercise the death penalty of the accused.

Digressing from the text for a moment.

Naturally minded rulers always lean towards ungodly powers rather than seeking the Lord. Old Testament kings of Israel sought the help of Assyria or Egypt for help instead of enquiring of the Lord. This was the case with the ruling religious elite in their opposition to Jesus. To gain their ungodly desires birthed by jealousy and envy they sought the power of the secular unbelieving Roman authorities to kill Jesus.

Because of lack of godly power within religious institutions today, there are “cover ups” and lies to protect themselves and their reputation. It has taken secular Royal Commissions and other natural authorities to investigate and expose the corruption within the religious orders and hierarchies. It should have been the believers themselves to call upon the Lord and deal with all the issues that are not holy. Violence against women and children and extreme control in the home is another issue these religious institutions need to deal with. Another issue that religious institutions have monopolised and directed is in the realm of worship. Secular authorities have banned gathering together and limited the number of worshippers. The laity have been taught that worship takes place on a Sunday at a set hour with a strict order of service. This is not scriptural and it is not the method Christ and the apostles taught. Jesus taught that the true worshippers would worship in spirit and in truth, and where two or more were gathered in his name, he would be in their midst. The truth is we can worship alone or with other believers at any time, day or night, at work, rest or play. When we come together we make melody in our heart, giving praise to the Lord. One has a hymn, one has a psalm, one has a spiritual song. In everything we give thanks to the Lord, at the same time praying without ceasing. We don’t need an organised institution or some human leader. We need the only one that can lead us to the Father. This is Jesus Christ the Son of God who is the Bishop of our souls.

Let us return to the text.

The other players in this story were the twelve disciples themselves which included (Judas) the one who would betray the Lord Jesus to the ruling elite. Also involved were many followers who were looking for the hope of Israel.

As we look closer into this text we see emotions were high, misunderstanding was rife. The disciples were astonished. The followers were afraid.

Jesus was declaring that this was his last journey to Jerusalem and the end result would be crucifixion and death. Though this was a journey of obedience of faith for Jesus, he would endure everything and put into practice the way he had taught and preached to others. He would face and overcome every hurdle in meekness and humility, totally trusting his almighty glorious Father. Many prophecies of the holy ones spoken hundreds of years before, would be fulfilled by Jesus Christ at Calvary.

We may say that some fanatical person could endure as a martyr a cause or purpose that included being betrayed, mocked, flogged, spat upon and ultimately end in death. But the cause and principle of Jesus was far greater with a determined purpose that included a greater prophecy that must be fulfilled. Never on this earth has anyone made and fulfilled the claim that Jesus made.

Jesus continued his conversation with his disciples with an astonishing remark. This statement though short in speech has far more eternal consequences than is shown on ink and paper.

We must contemplate the enormity of Jesus' words that he spoke on the way up to Jerusalem.

It is not for a true believer to just read these words lightly as they have enormous ramifications on their own future growth and hope.

Consider this scripture in **1 Corinthians 4: 20**.

The kingdom of God is not a matter of word (talk) but of power.

Talk can be cheap but the power to back up these words or talk must be from the heavenlies. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit must be in agreement for the power of these words to be accomplished. The Father ordained, the Son obeyed and the Spirit accomplished.

What were the six words Jesus uttered that would change the whole course of the natural universal understanding and dynamics of all creation and our future?

These words are:

"Three days later he will rise".

After much suffering and death, the Son of Man would rise.

These six words were only words, unless they were endured with power and the truth, to bring about fulfilment.

Mark the narrator of the gospel continues with many anecdotes concerning the ministry of Jesus, but he draws attention to the eye witness account of Jesus' prophetic word in the last chapter of the gospel.

This occurred at the tomb where Jesus' body had been laid.

Mark 16: 1-11

¹ When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. ² Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb ³ and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" ⁴ But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. ⁵ As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. ⁶ "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'" ⁸ Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid. ⁹ When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. ¹⁰ She went and told those who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping. ¹¹ When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe it.

There are many other scriptures that testify to the resurrection of Jesus and his appearing to many eye witnesses.

If Jesus has not risen, our faith is in vain.

These scriptures written of the eye witnesses are of great value in themselves to bring the reality of the truth to our hearts. The scriptures bear witness to the truth that the Lord of life can and does live in a believer's heart.

Colossians 1: 26-27

²⁶ *the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. ²⁷ To them God has chosen to make known among the gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

The reality of this witness is also testified to a believer's heart and mind by the Holy Ghost sent from heaven.

It is of paramount importance that the truth of the resurrection is engraved on the inner recesses of our heart by the Holy Ghost. The Holy Spirit has been gifted to us to bring to our remembrance the words that Jesus spoke and confirm the power of these words in our minds.

The kingdom of God is not in words but in power. 1 Corinthians 4: 20.

The apostle Paul wrote in **1 Corinthians 2: 2-4.**

² *For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. ⁴ My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power.*

Paul is testifying that it was the Holy Spirit that brought the words of the gospel alive and produced the power to transform.

The words of Christ in power through the Holy Spirit do shake our world, just as it shook the world of all who encountered Jesus. We as sinners can encourage and implore other sinners out of their lethargy – but only Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit is able to shake and transform the minds and hearts of sinners.

Yes, our emotions are affected, our thoughts need to be changed, our repentance must be deep and sincere before our faith can truly be the faith of Christ.

Shallowness and half-pie faith won't cut it in the coming days, only a gentle but sincere faith in the resurrection of Christ Jesus as Lord and Redeemer and Master of all creation will suffice.

You may ask, how can you say this? – the scripture states when Jesus returns, the generation living upon the earth will exhibit great faith.

Every generation will be exposed as a generation of faith or as an evil generation that does not believe and looks for signs and wonders.

The only sign given is Christ crucified.

Christ has come the first time to bring the reality of eternal life to those that believe and obey. The kingdom of God is among us now by promise and those that abide in it by faith overcome the world and its temptations, and the lust of the flesh, and have no other Lord but Jesus and refuse to follow the strangers voice.

They abide in a kingdom of truth that cannot be seen by the natural eye, a kingdom of promise that comes not by observation. The souls that live in this kingdom live by the rule of the Spirit of love which is the life of Christ and are conformed to the image of God's Son.

Temptation and failure are still snares that still need to be overcome. But as true as Christ is the "I Am" the resurrection and the life, so is the truth that the overcomer will not be hurt by the second death but will pass from death to life. The overcomer will be granted to eat from the tree of life which is in the paradise of God.

We through Adam eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, but through Christ and his resurrection into eternal life, we eat from the tree of life which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Be strong – be faithful – be true – be gracious – be kind to those without – be patient and above all, love God with all your heart, soul and mind.

Love the brethren which is evidence you have passed from death to life – love your enemies and remember while we were enemies, Christ died for us.

May we grow in grace and the knowledge of God, until the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ fills our hearts and then fills the earth with the glory of God.

Psalm 30: 2-5

² *O Lord my God, I called to you for help and you healed me.*

³ *O Lord you brought me up from the grave, you spared me from going down to the pit.*

⁴ *Sing to the Lord, your saints of his; praise his holy name.*

⁵ *For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favour lasts a lifetime; weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.*

It is the goodness of God that leads us to repent and cry out to him to find help and power to overcome ungodliness.

Godliness with contentment is great gain.

Bill and Sue (servants of Christ)

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