December 2023

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.

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 <u>Godliness</u> and <u>Holiness</u>. 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) ⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, ⁶ 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).

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.

December 2023 Message

Dear Friends,

What is happening in the world today should not come as a surprise to those that belong to Jesus. We have been encouraged by scripture to prepare ourselves for the coming days of turmoil and tribulation. Our model always is Jesus and to look unto him who is the author and perfector of our faith. Many have chosen to put their trust in anything other than Christ the Son of God, and many have followed the broad way that ends in distress, destruction and death.

(Matthew 7: 13-14)

¹³ "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Whilst Jesus went through the towns and villages he was asked a question that many people ask today.

(Luke 13: 22-30)

²² Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. ²³ Someone asked him, "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?" He said to them, ²⁴ "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. ²⁵ Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.' "But he will answer, 'I don't know you or where you come from.' ²⁶ "Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.' ²⁷ "But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!' ²⁸ "There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out. ²⁹ People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. ³⁰ Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last."

People make many excuses to justify why they will not enter the straight gate. We have all heard the excuses that are made and we may have made these excuses ourselves. We must repent of making excuses and trust that what Jesus said would benefit us and bring us to true life.

(2 Timothy 2: 19)

Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."

This scripture is addressed to Christians, everyone who confesses the name of the Lord. There is no room for excuses. Are you willing to live by the truth?

(John 3: 19-21)

¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.

The gate that we enter and abide in is clearly revealed by the Holy Spirit in (John 10: 1-6).

¹ "Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognise a stranger's voice." ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

Jesus had spoken to his disciples figuratively, but then he spoke plainly.

(John 10: 7-18)

⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again.¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

Jesus had come unto his own, but his own received him not.

(John 1: 10-13)

¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The good Shepherd laid down his life for his sheep and Jesus said he had sheep that were not of the Jewish sheep pen. He said I must bring them in also. Now we understand the gate is a man – the Son of God, Jesus the Christ and the gate is open to all that would hear his voice. Are you a true follower of Jesus, one who has counted the cost of obeying the one God, the Son whom the Father sent to save you. Do you still halt between two opinions and want to be someone in this world instead of laying down your life to live for Christ and become nothing in this world. Do you say to yourself "I am okay" and trust in your old evil heart of unbelief? A true believing heart has the desire to exalt Jesus and give him all the honour and glory for everything. Yes, for everything that comes your way.

We have to be wise and not compare ourselves with those that commend themselves. Their measurement of themselves is when they compare themselves with themselves. This lacks wisdom, and anything that lacks wisdom from above – lacks Christ.

(2 Corinthians 10: 12)

We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise.

Everything in the scripture was written for an example so we would not fall into the same example of unbelief. <u>Now</u> the reality of life is in Christ and Christ alone. If you are puzzled or are in doubt about the way you should live your life in this world, the clear cut answer is – walk in the way that Jesus walked.

Let us look at the scripture in the Gospel of Matthew.

(Matthew 11: 25-30)

²⁵ 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. ²⁶ Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do. ²⁷ "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. ²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

First of all, we see that Jesus gave praise to the Father, Lord of heaven and earth. Is your faith in the Sovereign God who is Lord of heaven and all the earth?

Now it is made plain and you can know who has the authority – it is not the devil, it is not the pope, it is not the pastors, bishops or elders or the wise and learned in the earth. The Father is the only true authority in heaven and earth and he gave that authority to Jesus. Nobody knows the Father except Jesus and to whom Jesus the Son chooses to reveal the Father to.

There is no man on this earth today who can reveal the Father to you except Jesus. Jesus said; *"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your soul, my yoke is easy and my burden is light"*. Jesus Christ is Lord and he is the only one who can teach and lead you to the Father.

Jesus came from heaven to reveal the Father and to bring life and life abundantly. Jesus also came to destroy the works of the devil and to give a peace that the world could not give.

(John 14: 27)

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

The works of the devil are dead works.

What are dead works?

Dead works are the works that do not bring the life of God.

The whole world lies in the grip of the evil one and this produces dead works.

Every law that is instituted in our society is given to try to prevent stealing, destruction and death. The law makers in our governments operate in legalism, greed and self-interest. They do not change the human heart, but only put band aides upon the problem. Our streets are filled with homelessness and yet some live in absolute luxury. Mammon is exalted and those that worship mammon in natural power are praised. The powerful are feted and the weak and lowly are despised. The superior rule over the inferior. The worldly are famed and the spiritually minded are persecuted. The Lord Jesus Christ is blasphemed and the Gospel is rubbished. The God deifiers join in fleshly pursuits with "mardi gras" abandon. Yet, the so called "church" is full of all these above characteristics. They make excuse after excuse for their attitudes and the watering down of God's word.

Because of their worldliness, the world dictates their agenda. Worldly Royal Commissions judge the so called godly institutions because they don't judge themselves and repent. The "church" goes to the heathen to settle financial disputes. They hail the Sabbath and live in abandonment to the world on the other days of the week. Every day is holy to the Lord.

They excuse themselves by saying "we are sinners saved by grace" or "we are only human". This should not be the case – we are repentant sinners that have a Saviour who teaches us to live like he did. Sin shall not have dominion over us and Jesus teaches us to overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony. We do not live by the world or its dictates, we live by every word that proceeds from the Jesus' mouth. The love of the world is not the love of the Father.

(1 John 2: 15-17)

¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶ For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

We say with our mouth and our actions declare that we live out of the eternal abundant life that God the Father gifted us in Jesus Christ. We do this by repentant faith, not by lustful pride. The life I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and died for me.

(Galatians 2: 18-21)

¹⁸ If I rebuild what I destroyed, then I really would be a lawbreaker. ¹⁹ "For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹ I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"

The institutional church has lost its "mojo" because it has rebuilt and succumbed to the elemental powers that Jesus came to destroy.

(Galatians 2: 18)

If I rebuild what I destroyed I prove that I am a law breaker.

What does it mean to rebuild what I destroyed?

It means to rebuild the things that Christ destroyed as a means of obtaining the righteousness that God requires.

Jesus destroyed the keeping of the law as a means of obtaining righteousness, faith in Christ fulfils the law.

The old man or the "adamic man" was taken to the tree and Christ in the body took the wrath of God that was due upon us. The life of the flesh is no longer in the blood, but in the spirit. The Spirit of Christ which is our life is gifted to us through the power of the Holy Spirit.

A new law now operates – The law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set me free from the law of sin and death.

The weak and beggarly elements that are mediated through principalities and fallen angelic powers are made defunct, redundant and powerless when we operate in the Royal Law of life in Christ's Kingdom. If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation and lives by faith and by a new spirit out of a new heart through the circumcision of Christ's body upon the tree. The empty tomb is a declaration that Jesus has risen and is both Lord and Christ and a new and living way exists.

The rebuilding of temples and calling them churches or the house of God is a dead works.

Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit and together we are built up into a holy habitation for the Lord, we are God's field, we are God's building. Jesus alone is the foundation and the capstone and we as living stones are joined together in the bonds of love to glorify God in the spirit of holiness. The stone the builders rejected is now the head of the corner. Jesus has the authority and the power to bring this work to completion and he will do it.

(John 2: 18-22) After Jesus had thrown the money changers out of the temple courts;

¹⁸ The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." ²⁰ They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" ²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken. You can't find in scripture where the first generation or second generation of disciples embarked on building programs.

In (Matthew 24: 1) it states Jesus left the temple.....

Jesus never returned to the temple again. A new temple was about to be built and this would be built out of living stones. At the exact hour (the ninth hour), Jesus gave up the spirit and the curtain in the temple was torn and the Holy Spirit departed from the holy place that was built by men's hands. The Holy Spirit could not come and permanently reside in the new temple of God until Jesus was glorified. The obedient received this Spirit of the Holy One on the day of Pentecost. The new dwelling place of God's Spirit was now in the hearts of regenerated men that God had called and chosen.

The self-same Spirit is the Spirit that raised Christ Jesus from the dead and will raise us up also and cause us to exalt Jesus in all things. This self-same Spirit is the Spirit of Christ that humbles us to live for Christ and to suffer for him. It is the Spirit of God that endures all things and trust God in the midst of a world that defies the living God and fails to believe the judgement it draws upon itself when it defies the grace offered to it in Christ.

Those that build their own kingdoms instead of being subdued by Christ's love, will and do bring judgement on themselves. This may take eons or it may take moments, but be assured the wrath of God comes upon those that do not repent of dead works and do not have faith towards God.

Another dead works is to try to build the Kingdom of Christ (which is an impossibility for man, but possible with God) by using the methods of the agents of the evil one, which are the hierarchy systems of angelic beings and the power of governments of the world and the power of mammon. The governmental systems of hierarchies that the so called "church" adopted from the Roman Caesars that are still with us today came from pagan rulers. These methods were subsequently adopted by the reformers and were instituted by John Calvin. They are inadequate and are collapsing around their ears. The principle idea taught by Augustine was that the Kingdom of God and the "church" were synonymous - this is an adopted error.

God's Kingdom cannot be inherited by flesh and blood, but is the rightful inheritance of those that God has called and chosen to belong to Jesus. Those that follow Jesus are brothers and sisters together and are loved by the Father with the same passion as he loves Jesus, his only begotten Son. There is no hierarchy or "superiority" over "inferiority", but are all one in Christ as it was before the foundation of the world. There is neither Jew or gentile, slave or free, black or white, no racial superiority, no class distinctions, no priesthood above the laity, all are one in Christ.

Just as the fellowship is in the Father and the Son by the Holy Spirit, so it is with the body of Christ, where the Father is in the Son and the Son and the Father make their home in their sons and daughters. God makes us one by the greatest of all virtues – the power of humble love. Jesus came not to be served but to serve. The servant is not above his master.

Those that do not repent from dead works, do not enjoy the benefits of Christ's Kingdom but continue to live in death bearing religion.

Remember who Jesus is, was and always will be.

He is the Logos; Who was before anything existed; Who was before the foundation of the world; He was with God; He was God; Through him and for him and for his pleasure all things were created.

Let us look at a scripture in the Gospel of John.

(John 1: 29-34)

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' ³¹ I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel." ³² Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. ³³ And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain on is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One."

John could say that the <u>One</u> that he saw, was the one who existed before me, and was also the one who was coming after him who was the Lamb of God that existed before the foundation of the world and was the only one who could take away the sin of the world and restore it back to its intended glory. Jesus was not only the Creator, but he was the redeemer and anyone that obeyed his words would take their place in the manifested Kingdom of God when the Father would be all in all.

It is not our belief that makes Jesus as Lord, it is Jesus as Lord that grants us belief.

It is God who both works in us and wills us to do of his good pleasure. Surely this is the love, grace and mercy of God that causes us to do what pleases him. It is the Father's good pleasure to give us his Kingdom and we please God when we receive his Kingdom by faith and walk in the Spirit of it by the knowledge that he imparts to us by grace. Accumulated knowledge by searching the scriptures and becoming wise in our own conceits is not Godly knowledge. The true knowledge which is by revelation comes by seeking the Kingdom of God and striving to enter the straight gate and walking the narrow path that leads to life – this is the way. We are then found of God and he reveals Jesus Christ as the way, the truth and the life. The way of the cross and laying down our life is the Kingdom way.

The way for the righteous is Jesus and no other path they will follow and his voice only will they hear. They never ever seek their own glory but only the glory of the Father and the Son. The words of Jesus are brought to their remembrance through the Holy Spirit and they are given strength to obey those words.

(Philippians 2: 12-13)

¹² 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, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil his good purpose.

It is the Sovereign God that works in our hearts and minds and we justify his working by obedience to his word.

We like the apostle Paul, urge you to live lives worthy of God who calls you into his Kingdom and glory.

(1 Thessalonians 2: 12-13)

¹² Encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory. ¹³ And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.

The word of God works in you that believe.

By the words of the law no flesh shall be justified.

(Galatians 2:16)

Know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified. God did a mighty deed when we became God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do. We were not created in Christ to do dead works. If we continue in unrepentant dead works, we will reap a whirlwind. The obedience of faith is the ethic of the teaching of Christ and will bring the fruit of the Spirit.

Seek first the Kingdom of God and everything you need will be given you.

(Matthew 7: 7-8)

⁷ "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

Ask, seek and knock and the door will be opened.

To stop seeking God is to return to the old ways and rest on your own laurels. In essence it is to abandon the way. The holy ones must finish the race and not abandon their calling to follow the weak and beggarly traditions handed down by the fathers. We must take the pathway of the cross and die daily that Christ may be manifest in our mortal bodies.

We cannot abandon our purpose of fulfilling God's will.

Paul says in (Philippians 3: 9-11):

⁹ And be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ – the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of <u>sharing</u> in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

To us this does not sound like someone who has stopped seeking.

Do not let anyone rob you of your God given right to inherit the Kingdom of God.

In fact, when the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray, his first instruction for them after giving all honour to God the Father was to pray for his Kingdom to come and the will of God to be done on earth as it is in heaven. To allow Christ to dwell in your heart by faith is to let Christ's Kingdom reign in your heart, the Kingdom is where King Jesus dwells and has dominion over our lives both now and forever more. We live by the promise of his Kingdom now and we will experience its fruit before it is manifest to the world. Hallelujah.

The Kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit and those that serve Christ is this manner are pleasing unto God. But the only way to please God is by faith.

When we are born again from above we are transferred from the kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of the Son of his love.

So we live in God's Kingdom by faith in Christ Jesus and even though it does not come by observation we still live by faith and not by sight through the promises of God. Every promise is yes and amen in Christ Jesus.

No man can mediate spiritual truth to us except the man Christ Jesus.

He is the door and to come some other way is to come as a thief and a robber.

Bill and Sue (servants of Christ)