

October 2019

Dear Beloved,

To the saints of God, to those that are called out of darkness into his glorious light. We welcome you to the ecclesia (Church) fellowship made up of living stones. You may ask “why are we so different to any other collection of believers?”

Let me answer it this way. Our fellowship is with the Father and the Son, and our hope is that we may have fellowship with you as you fellowship with the Father and the Son. As a group of believers, our unity is in the truth of Jesus and in the gentle Spirit of Holiness. This does not make us more righteous than any other believer, but we endeavour to work out our salvation in faith to Almighty God through Jesus Christ, with fear and trembling and reverential awe.

We believe that we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone in Christ alone. Yet, we are not alone in this faith for our God has reserved many to walk in his heavenly calling. This fellowship of Ecclesia (or called out ones) gather unto God through the Holy Spirit and have no abiding temple here on earth. Our foundational scriptures are (1 Peter 2: 4-12) and (1 John 1: 1-4) speaking of the Living Stone (Jesus) and us as living stones built up to be a holy habitation by God.

(1 Peter 2: 4-12)

⁴ As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him—⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house—to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says:

*“See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame.”*

⁷ Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

“The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone,”

⁸ and, “A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belong to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

(1 John 1: 1-4)

¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ² The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We write this to make our joy complete.

In this ministry, we have no outward building structures, we have no exalted titles (i.e. Pastor, Priest, etc.). We live unto one High Priest and give all the titles unto Jesus and we as servants to all are ambassadors for Christ only. We believe every person born into this earth will be presented with God's Word. God reveals his Godhead either through creation's splendour or by through man's conscience. *"Only a fool says in his heart there is no God"* (Psalm 14: 1 and Psalm 53: 1).

Through sin and rebellion, man is held captive to the devil and his ways and though alive he or she is a "dead man walking" bound in their depravity. Unable to free him or herself, Jesus Christ came as a Saviour Redeemer to pay the penalty for sin and reconcile us back to God. The price to pay for this redemption was his death. No ordinary death, but, a death upon a cross at Calvary.

Though this was an unjust penalty upon the "innocent righteous" (carried out by ignorant men who were still in captivity to Satan). God in his unfailing love and wisdom, did not let Jesus' soul remain in hell or his body to see corruption. God the Father declared this Jesus was the Holy One prophesied through the ages, the worthy Saviour and Redeemer.

How did God declare that Jesus was the true Saviour/Redeemer and Lord? He did this by raising the man Christ Jesus to eternal life through the Resurrection out from among the dead. The Father declared openly to all, that Jesus was the Way, the Truth, the Life and the Resurrection. Now the way back to the Father was through the Son.

We as a gathering of human souls, congregate in the earth, led by the Spirit of Christ in all humility and meekness. God the Father enables us to bear all types of accusations, persecutions and suffering for his name's sake. In this we bring honour to the only blessed Potentate, King of Kings, Lord of Lords, the only true and wise God. This God we serve is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Ephesians 1: 3)

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Yes, and through God's Word and Spirit we are born again into the heavenly Kingdom and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is now our Father.

God was in Christ reconciling us to himself and has given us this ministry of reconciliation. We now say be ye reconciled to God.

(2 Corinthians 5: 14-21)

¹⁴ For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. ¹⁶ So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As living stones, we will always bear the burdens of the weak while we live on this earth. It is not a strange thing to suffer on this earth, because sin and rebellion are the cause of all suffering. But the mystery of our calling brings a different kind of suffering, where we suffer for righteousness sake in serving our God and Saviour Jesus Christ. Even though we are called out of the world, we are sent back into the world to declare the Gospel of Christ and his Kingdom and do it in the manner in which Christ served his Father.

There is much more to declare about our gracious Lord and Christ than I can share in a few passages of writing. But in the meantime we say, go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. Please join us in the

fellowship of the Father and the Son through the Holy Spirit. Be strong and courageous. Free yourself by faith in Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit from every sin of hindrance that prevents you entering into God's Kingdom. In this Kingdom where you can fly and be free being obedient to the Living Word – be born again by God's Word and Spirit, press on into God's Kingdom. Don't be bound by denominationalism, sectarianism or sin and rebellion. Live not as a sinner but live as a repentant sinner, saved by the Grace of God.

- Obey the teachings of Christ;
- Take no offence;
- Be joyful / be sincere / be loving;
- Serving Christ;
- Living by the Spirit of Christ in all holiness and meekness;
- Obeying and abiding in his Word.

In this we serve God in all reverence and fear, knowing every man will stand before God in judgement for every deed done in the body.

We by faith look for a City whose builder and maker is God.

Bill and Sue (servants of Christ).

P.S. This is our first letter of encouragement which only scratches the surface of the knowledge of the one who is the Alpha and Omega. So trust in him and be bold and courageous.