

January 2024 Message

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.

**Jesus is seated at God the Father's right hand in Glory!**

Dear Friends,

**John 16: 33 – 17: 5**

<sup>33</sup> *"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.*

<sup>1</sup> *After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed.*

*"Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. <sup>2</sup> For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. <sup>3</sup> Now this is eternal life: that they might know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.*

This portion of scripture which Jesus prayed for himself reveals the work the Father had required of him was now in the throes of completion. He had glorified the Father while in the flesh and had passed these words of life onto those the Father had given him. Between this moment and his resurrection stood the cross. While in the flesh the Son of man would face the greatest trial of obedience in faith and though he had the power of eternal life he denied the use of it by his obedience to his Father's word. He must die and be raised to life again according to the prophecy of scripture. Not one jot or tittle of the law would be broken to achieve this salvation and redemption of all creation.

The following word would need to be fulfilled by God's Son as a servant.

**Isaiah 53: 3-12**

<sup>3</sup> *He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces. He was despised, and we esteemed him not. <sup>4</sup> Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. <sup>6</sup> We like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. <sup>7</sup> He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. <sup>8</sup> By arrest and judgement he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgressions of my people he was stricken. <sup>9</sup> He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence nor was any deceit in his mouth. <sup>10</sup> Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand. <sup>11</sup> After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light and he will see the result of suffering of his soul and be satisfied (refer Masoretic text) by his knowledge, my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. <sup>12</sup> Therefore, I will give him a portion among many, and he will divide the spoils with the numerous, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.*

Jesus the Son of man was the Son of God in the flesh and was humiliated as a criminal upon the cross. There is a beginning and an end to the salvation works of the Christ. Jesus' humiliation began when he left his Father's glory and was born of a woman in controversial conditions of true poverty, made under the law, underwent every human condition, experienced the miseries of life and was tempted in all points that can be experienced by any human being. Upon the cross he endured the wrath of God in judgement and punishment for every sin and transgression committed by Adam's race. He stood in our place for our sin, not his own sin. He was dealt the curse of death. He was buried and continued under the power of death for three days and three nights. Though he had the power to raise himself from the dead, he forsook this ability through obedient faith until God the Father sent the Holy Spirit to raise him up, out from among the dead.

## **Romans 8: 11**

<sup>11</sup> *If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead, will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.*

It was God, the triune God who raised Jesus from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The apostle Peter, after being endured with power from on high on the day of Pentecost, spoke of Christ's resurrection and exaltation. He resorted to explain it through the words of King David, Israel's most endeared King.

## **Acts 2: 29-36**

<sup>29</sup> *Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. <sup>30</sup> But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup> Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor his body see decay. <sup>32</sup> God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. <sup>33</sup> Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. <sup>34</sup> For David did not ascend to heaven and yet he said, "The Lord said to my Lord:*

*"Sit here at my right hand*

*<sup>35</sup> until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."*

*<sup>36</sup> "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this; God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."*

Jesus the Lord and Christ has been openly crucified for all the world to see and God is not holding our sins and transgressions against us. God the Father has come to us through the Holy Spirit and grants us the right hand of fellowship and forgiveness of sins. This wondrous grace can only be known through the gift of the Holy Spirit who sheds the love of God into a humble heart.

The cross was the final act of Jesus in his obedience of faith to glorify his Father on earth and allow the glory of God be known to all men.

Jesus prayed to his Father that he might be glorified with the same glory that he had with the Father before the world began.

All this had to be done according to the prophecy of the scripture and the law.

Every prophetic ordinance and requirement for our salvation was accomplished by Christ at Calvary. This cannot be added to in any way by our works or by our own understanding. When naturally minded men try to decipher the mystery of the cross and God's will without the power of the Holy Spirit, it always leads to error and develops into religious and cultic practices.

Jesus' cry from the cross gives us insight that the work of judgement against every sin and transgression was completed.

## **John 19: 28-30**

<sup>28</sup> *Later, knowing that all was now completed and so that the scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said "I am thirsty" <sup>29</sup> a jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant and lifted it to Jesus' lips. <sup>30</sup> When he received the drink, Jesus said "it is finished". With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*

The ultimate ending of condemnation against sinful man had now been accomplished and would be sealed in believing hearts by the power of the Holy Spirit after Christ's ascension and glorification. Christ Jesus' glorification was the restoration of the glory that he had before the foundation of the world when he sat down at his Father's right hand.

When Jesus met Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb after the resurrection, his words to her are significant to our understanding of his glorification.

## **John 20: 17**

*Jesus said "do not hold onto me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.*

Where was Jesus returning to? He was returning to where he was before, to his Father who was God in heaven.

Let us remember Jesus' words to Nicodemus when he referred to his inability to understand the mysteries of heavenly things, about being born again and seeing and entering the Kingdom of God. This inability to see and understand heavenly things applies today to all who have not fully repented and are not of humble heart. They will always try to understand God's will and purpose through a mind that is corrupted through sin. The apostle Paul was bold when he said – *But we have the mind of Christ.* (1 Corinthians 1: 16).

**John 3: 11-13** (Speaking to Nicodemus, Jesus Christ said).

<sup>11</sup> *"I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. <sup>12</sup> I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe, how then will you believe if I speak to you of heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven – the Son of Man.*

Jesus the Son of Man is the only one who came down from heaven and returned to the Father's right hand of power in heaven.

His descent into human form from heaven was his calling to reveal the Father and destroy the works of the devil. His suffering and humiliation unto death, death upon a cross, his resurrection out from among the dead and his ascension back to his rightful place at the Father's right hand is the proof of his glorification.

**Psalm 110: 1** and repeated in **Acts 2: 34-35** states.

*The Lord says to my Lord:*

*"Sit at my right hand  
until I make your enemies  
a footstool for your feet".*

Yes, every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God. This will be done by everyone whether a believer or unbeliever. Whether under wrath or freedom.

The ascension of Jesus Christ and his placement and seating at God's right hand is the proof of his re-glorification. In Christ not one jot or tittle of the law was broken and the justice according to holiness had been fulfilled. Every broken covenant and every accusation against sinners had been nullified. Now through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, the sinner stands under judgement of a holy and just God and through Christ and Christ alone is justified. The sinner that believes in Jesus Christ through faith, God justifies.

**Romans 8: 28-39**

<sup>28</sup> *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his son, that he might be the first born among many brothers. <sup>30</sup> Those he predestined, he also called, those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. <sup>31</sup> What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. <sup>35</sup> Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?*

<sup>36</sup> *As it is written:*

*"For your sake we face death all day long;  
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered".*

<sup>37</sup> *No in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus my Lord.*

Now Christ had been enthroned on high and through Christ his inheritance is imputed to every believer by faith. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of Christ. If you obey his call you have been justified and you will be glorified.

Throughout all eons many have believed in Christ and are waiting patiently to be made perfect and they cry out for the manifestation of the Sons of God.

### **Hebrews 12: 1-3**

<sup>1</sup> *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.* <sup>2</sup> *Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.* <sup>3</sup> *Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

Our only hope of righteousness is in Christ. But if Christ is alive in your heart you will endure to the end and be saved.

Salvation has a beginning and an end. It begins in Christ and ends in Christ. Our destiny is to be conformed to the image of his Son, which ends in the glory of God, for God's glory. The glory of God revealed in Christ will be made known in you. Then we will be known as we are known. When we see him we will be like him.

We can follow the words of the apostle Paul and make them our own. *The Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so they will be like his glorious body.* (Philippians 3: 21).

### **Philippians 1: 18-22**

<sup>18</sup> *When Christ is preached I rejoice. Yes, I will continue to rejoice.* <sup>19</sup> *For I know through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.* <sup>20</sup> *I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or death.* <sup>21</sup> *For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.* <sup>22</sup> *If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labour for me.*

May this be our prayer and duty as we follow Jesus as pilgrims of humility. Enduring doubts, tribulations, false brethren, our own errors and misjudgements by overcoming the world, the flesh and the devil.

It is not a sin to live in the flesh, because we can in the flesh be truthful and sincere followers of Jesus.

While alive in the body, we as disciples can in the flesh walk in love and kindness, manifesting the truth that is in Jesus. We can deny self-ambition and the praises of men and seek the glory of God alone whilst living in our fleshly bodies. We can take up our own cross and die daily to the enticements and deceptions of the world that Satan has employed to make us captive to his will. But it is sin to live according to the flesh.

What is not of faith is sin.

The whole world lies in wickedness and is always a source of temptation to follow its ways. Jesus encourages us in our opening text. *"I have overcome the world". "Follow me"*. Jesus has not only set the captives free, but he has taken captivity captive and given gifts unto men. The overcomers will not be hurt by the second death or have their names blotted out of the book of life.

We are never to be enslaved again to the things that bind. Because for freedom Christ has set us free and we are never to be again entangled with the yoke of bondage.

We have one mediator before God who has entered into heaven itself and ever lives to pray and present his blood as an atonement for our sins and transgressions. He is our mediator and no other person or being can fulfil this task for us.

We were once slaves to sin, but now through Jesus we are slaves to righteousness through the atonement and reconciliation of the cross of Christ.

God does not have slaves or enslave anyone.

God's commands are always appropriated through mercy and grace with a fulfilment in humble love.

God commands not demands; his commandments are not grievous.

God's will is accomplished through obedience and willingness. If we are willing and obedient we will eat the fat of the land.

Men without the mind of Christ lie in wait to enslave God's people with burdens and ideas that take away the truth that is in Christ. We must have the courage to refuse their captivating ways and enter the straight gate and walk the narrow path that leads to life.

We must be willing to make Jesus Sovereign Lord in his kingdom of love. Jesus' kingdom has citizens of worshipful, humble, sincere people of holiness that come not to be served, but to serve.

Jesus is the Lord of his invisible kingdom and teaches us his ways in the power of humility, gentle love, kindness and truth. There is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus and his kingdom.

In Christ's kingdom, God is our Father and we are his sons and daughters.

In his kingdom of love, Jesus is as our husband and we are as his bride, adorned with all the glory that God adorned upon his Son when he sat down at his right hand.

It is our honour to glorify Jesus in our body and to endure the discipline of walking as Jesus walked. To walk in the light as he has taught us. To walk as Jesus walked is contrary to the teachings of the world which draws down its own acceptance or condemnation of sinners. Jesus came not to condemn, but to save and grant us eternal life.

We must be like Jesus and not condemn, but to proclaim the truth of the gospel of Christ and his kingdom. This may bring weariness to our soul and draw persecution, but we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

Christ, when he was led as a lamb to the slaughter, opened not his mouth and railed not, but cried out from a spirit full of grace against all evil; *"Father forgive them for they know not what they do"*.

There is a great door and effectual opened unto us but the adversaries are many. May we in 2024 walk in the nature of the Lamb. Jesus is the truth and the nature of Christ crucified is the only way that the sin of the world can be taken away.

*It is not by might, not by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord. (Zechariah 4; 1).*

Bill and Sue (servants of Christ)