

September 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).

*<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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September 2021 Message

The Kingdom of God is not talk but of power (1 Corinthians 4: 20)

Dear Friends,

The kingdom of God is the sphere of absolute sovereign power that is exercised in such a way it is foreign and alien to naturally minded men. The kingdom of God comes to us as a promise if we will humble ourselves and yield to the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The promise of the gospel is that the power of the coming age will be the experience and evidence given to the humble of heart. This experience and evidential witness is hidden from the proud and arrogant. The proud and arrogant interpret the scriptures to their own likeness and build spheres of influence of their own making.

Instead of making idols of wood, stone and silver, they fashion ideas into internalised idols of superiority and self-righteousness.

Wisdom speaks in Proverbs and declares –

Proverbs 8: 12-13

¹² I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion. ¹³ To fear the Lord is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behaviour and perverse speech.

Ezekiel the prophet in chapter 7 prophesied the coming wrath of Yahweh upon the nation of Israel.

Ezekiel 7: 9-10

⁹ I will not look upon you with pity or spare you; I will repay you in accordance with your conduct and the detestable practices among you. Then you will know that it is I the Lord who strikes the blow. ¹⁰ The day is here! It has come! Doom has burst forth, the rod has budded, arrogance has blossomed!

Yes, there is a clear reference here to the 'rod that budded'.

We remember the rod that budded was in relation to the authority of Aaron. The God given authority is compared with the authority that arrogance brings.

Psalms 31: 18 associates lying lips with pride and contempt which brings forth out of the heart arrogant speech against the righteous.

Jesus amplified the truth of where uncleanness originates.

Mark 7: 14-22

¹⁴ Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me everyone and understand this. ¹⁵ Nothing outside a man can make him 'unclean' by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him 'unclean'. ¹⁷ After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable. ¹⁸ "Are you so dull?" he asked, "don't you see that nothing that enters a man from the outside can make him 'unclean'? ¹⁹ For it doesn't go into the heart but into his stomach, and then out of his body" (in saying this, Jesus declared all foods "clean".) ²⁰ He went on: "what comes out of man is what makes him 'unclean'. ²¹ For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²² greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man unclean.

In **1 Samuel 15: 23**, arrogance is coupled with the evil of idolatry and rebellion as the sin of divination. These sins were exposed in King Saul at the time Samuel rejected him as king. Arrogance is always the enemy of obedience. To God – arrogance and idolatry stem from an unregenerate heart and does not inquire of the Lord for guidance and relies on natural wisdom.

I Chronicles 10: 13-14

¹³ Saul died because he was unfaithful to the Lord; he did not keep the word of the Lord and even consulted a medium for guidance, ¹⁴ and did not inquire of the Lord. So the Lord put him to death and turned the kingdom over to David son of Jesse.

Though Saul was rejected by God as king, he still ruled Israel for many years. In those years he persecuted and harassed the true king of Israel, David son of Jesse.

The lesson we can glean from this is that the flesh and the spirit are contrary to one another and every generation is engaged in the same battle and this battle will continue as long as the earth remains.

The same battle that Jesus endured is the same battle that Paul and the first century believers battled. This battle is the same battle we encounter today in this generation and it will be the same battle that believers will encounter in the 25th century (should the Lord tarry). The tendency to escape our present

day temptation and retreat to first century living or to project into fanciful living and escape into a nirvana or far off paradise that will not bring the reality of the presence of Christ in our lives today.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Jesus Christ is the same Jesus that walked with the disciples on the shores of Galilee, the same Jesus that suffered on the cross at Calvary, the same Jesus that John the Apostle met in visionary form on the Isle of Patmos, the same Jesus that enters our heart and transforms us into his image by the power of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. This is the same Jesus we will meet in the resurrection of the just on the glory day when all things will be revealed in the light.

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever.

This same Jesus is the one that created us, this is the same Jesus who saw our fall from grace and then entered into our forsaken state and suffered our pain, our misery, our separation from our Father. He bore the penalty of our sin in his own body upon the tree. This same Jesus was, is and always will be the love of God personified in a bodily form. This same Jesus is the one who came and fulfilled every scripture, the one who fulfilled every written ordinance that was held against us and nailed it to Calvary's cross. Jesus is the one who reconciled us to God. Jesus is the one who took us in our 'unclean' state and made us 'clean'. Jesus is the one the Holy Spirit teaches us about and causes us to become what we are. Sanctified sons of God who are called to obey the gospel of God and live in Christ's kingdom by faith while we wait to be clothed from on high. Jesus lived and breathed the Kingdom of God while living in the flesh and yet never once succumbed to the temptations of the evil one.

The temptations that Jesus endured were of the highest order and encompassed every temptation that is offered in this world today. One common denominator within every temptation is to disobey the commands of God and rely on our own arrogance and pride. Jesus never once put his trust in anyone or in any word of the devil. Jesus only said and did what he heard his Father say or what his Father did. God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself. Jesus walked and lived in love.

This is the battle every generation must face, will face and continue to face. Will we allow Christ to reign in our hearts and bring us into kingdom living while we live in the body of flesh.

The apostle Paul wrote these words of enlightenment to encourage the Roman believers.

Romans 8: 1-11

¹ Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit. ⁵ Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶ The mind of sinful man is death, ⁷ but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; ⁸ the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. ⁹ You however are not controlled by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

We have an obligation to live by the Spirit and put to death the misdeeds of the body and to be led by the Holy Spirit. The lesson is we must trust in Jesus just as the apostles did in their generation and not live according to fleshly dictates of the carnal mind.

We are co-heirs with Christ in that we share in his suffering so we also will share in his glory. What suffering is endured is not necessarily the suffering to the shedding of our own blood or martyrdom, but it is the suffering of not following in the way of all flesh and the world.

To walk through the straight gate and walk the narrow path that leads to life is to encounter the suffering of ridicule and anti-world sentiment. It is to live in a personal relationship with Jesus that is not the rule of thumb that an institutionalised religion requires. It may appear to be walking alone, but in reality it is walking with the Master of all mankind. It is walking with a personal Saviour, it is being in step with the sanctifying Holy Spirit where your very own thoughts and words stand in the scrutiny of judgement by the one who is holy. This judgement is not to condemn you but to expose the hidden depths of sinful pride and arrogance that lies deep within the human heart. Jesus is so full of love and goodness he does not condemn you but causes you to repent and humble yourself under the light of his gentle touch. To walk with Jesus is to walk with someone so pure that what we call 'clean' is not yet as pure as him.

While we live in this body of sinful flesh we will always be tempted to lean on our own understanding or to rely on an institutions creed as a way of life. These "shadow casters" always bring the wisdom down to natural, sensual and devilish understanding. The reason that God the Father sent the Holy Spirit into our hearts was to conform us to the image of his Son and bring all creation back to its rightful glory. To rebuild the principles of law, temple worship, circumcision and Sabbath teachings within the human heart is to nullify the grace and mercy of God and make the cross of Christ of no effect.

Jesus was the last Adam and took his body to the tree, was crucified and died and rose again out from among the dead and was raised a new man, the Lord from heaven a life giving Spirit. There is no such thing as the second Adam. The new man is the Lord from heaven.

No man can see God and live.

There is only one who has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven – the Son of Man, Jesus the Lord.

Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peace makers for they will be called the sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

We are a chosen generation, a holy nation, a priesthood that offers up sacrifices of praise to the Lord.

We are those that cast down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God and brings every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. We do not use carnal weapons to achieve the purposes of God. The weapons of our warfare are not carnal but are mighty through God to pulling down strongholds. The weapons we use are faith, love, hope, the gospel which is the sword of the Spirit the word of Christ. In gentleness, meekness and wisdom of humility and through prayer and faith we touch not the anointed of God.

The kingdoms built by angels, the bricks and mortar of mammon and Caesar are empires that tumble before the great power of the living God.

The kingdom of Christ which cannot be observed with the naked eye because it is built of precious stones of faith, love and truth is invisible. This kingdom is ours by promise and will manifest in glory and what is believed will be made known to the seeker. This is the gospel of Jesus Christ and the kingdom, that must be preached before the end comes.

After the resurrection, Jesus preached the Kingdom of God.

Acts 1: 1-3 - Luke wrote

¹ I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the Kingdom of God.

Yes, the message that Jesus preached after his death and resurrection to life, was the Kingdom of God. Do you hear this message being preached from the pulpits of the denominations today? Do they preach the gospel of life or do you hear “the sting of death is sin and the power of sin is the law”?

The preaching of law will never bring life, no it will only condemn those that hear it and bring a veil over their eyes.

Gal 3: 21-24

²¹ Is the law therefore opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law. ²² But the scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. ²⁴ The law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law.

Do we become lawless?

Do we become law breakers?

God forbid!

We now become law fulfillers if we are baptised into Christ.

What is it to fulfil the law?

It is to be in Christ and live in the Spirit.

How can we know that we are in Christ?

If we claim to walk in the light as he is in the light and trust in our works to find favour with God or trust in our denomination to bring us life, we are on the slippery slope to death and oblivion.

When we walk with Jesus we will discover how deceitful our fleshly heart is. If our walk is a walk that is trusting in the arm of the flesh it will only deal with the outward appearance. It will only make the outer of the cup clean and never deal with the cleansing of the inside of the cup.

We will desire and love the praises of men above the praise that comes from the praise of God only. We will abide in outward trappings of appearing righteous instead of a righteousness imputed to us through the work of Christ and Christ alone. We will have a heart that still lives in judgemental superiority over other men brought about our self-righteousness. We will have a heart that decides who is in and who is out, we will disregard others for their ethnicity, colour, creed, race or gender.

To live a life of faith that is mature is to know that “but for the grace of God there go I!”

To live by faith is to live by love – love that obeys the words of Jesus above and over the commands of the world. This walk will bring suffering but it is a suffering for righteousness sake. To live with Jesus as your Lord you may alone but never be lonely. Jesus will be with you just as he was with the disciples on the shores of Galilee. The only difference is you will not see him with you, but you will know he is with you.

Galatians 5: 4-6

⁴ You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen from grace. ⁵ But by faith we earnestly await through the Spirit, the righteousness for which we hope. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

This love is the fulfilment of the law.

This love is the goal of our faith.

This love exhibits a character that exemplifies the nature of Christ in the wisdom of humility by obedience to the truth.

Trusting in Jesus’ shed blood to wash away our sins allows us to fellowship with Jesus in a personal relationship and to walk in the light as he is in the light. He that hears the voice of Christ will not walk in darkness but will walk in the light of life. Those that hear the voice of Jesus will never follow the strangers voice.

In this kingdom there is no room for arrogance, superiority or false humility because it instantly debars and prevents further progress in the Lord. Only those that repent and seek the Lord with all their heart can prevail. To abandon seeking Christ and his kingdom is to abandon our destiny. To camp at denominational firesides where they keep warm by their own works and achievements will never allow the inner man to grow into the likeness of Christ. It will hinder and leave those called to maturity to stumble.

The last few verses in the book of Acts gives an insight into the apostle Paul’s intent and purpose.

Acts 28: 22-31 – the people asked

²² But we want to hear what your views are, for we know that people everywhere are talking against this sect. ²³ They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day, and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. From morning till evening he explained and declared to them the kingdom of God and tried to convince them about Jesus from the law of Moses and from the prophets. ²⁴ Some were convinced by what he said, but others would not believe. ²⁵ They disagreed among themselves and began to leave after Paul made his final statement: “the Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your forefathers when he said through Isaiah the prophet. ²⁶ Go to this people and say “you will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving”. ²⁷ For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn and I would heal them. ²⁸ Therefore I want you to know that God’s salvation has been sent to the Gentiles and they will listen. ³⁰ For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. ³¹ Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus.

It is clear through this scripture that Paul preached the Kingdom of God and taught about Jesus!

What are you hearing?

Do you know Jesus as Lord?

Do you know about the Kingdom of God?

This third witness of what was preached in the first century clearly shows that the message was that Jesus was both Lord and Christ and that he brought the kingdom of God to this earth and spoilt Satan's domain. Wherever he went he cast out demons and he said that the kingdom of God has come among you. Jesus brought the coming age into this present evil age.

The kingdom of Christ is the coming age or reign of Christ brought into our midst to overcome the power of the enemy. This power is never given to control or override the faith of a believer. Every believer will stand before the bema seat of Christ and declare whether they yielded their heart to Christ or whether they yielded to arrogance or pride. The arrogance of self-regarding love or self-importance or self-superiority. The true believer will always yield their belief and calling to the scrutiny of self-judgement before the living God and cry out to God in prayer to open their hearts and minds and heal their blind eyes and deaf ears.

They will ask themselves, what did I do with the life Christ gave me? Did I squander it on riotous living or did I repent and return to the Father? Do I prefer the praises of men or the honour that comes from God only?

The aggrandisement of self and the folly of man-made religion that gathers followers to themselves or their empirical denominational formats, creeds and structures will eventually fall by the wayside and become the carnage of idolatrous worship. The true teachings of Christ should always lead to a singular desire to worship God the Father in spirit and in truth with an awesome fearfulness of his holiness and majesty. To know him and whom he sent to save us and through the power of the Holy Spirit, humbly yield to his Christ and abandon every other false belief that calls itself greater than the law giver of life and to receive the correction that brings life, love and contentment to our soul.

What a travesty of justice to be ruled by a sinner such as ourselves instead of the sinless one. The blind lead the blind and they all fall into the ditch. The Holy Spirit will lead you to the One who has no sin and this true and faithful High Priest will lead you to the Father. His name is Jesus and he is the Son of the Father's love.

1 John 4: 7-21

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us; He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love; not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. ¹³ We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love, lives in God and God in him. ¹⁷ In this way, love is made complete among us, so that we will have confidence in the day of judgement, because in this world we are like him. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says "I love God", yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God,

whom he has not seen. ²¹ And he has given this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

To live in Christ's kingdom is to live in love and to preach the Kingdom of Christ one must have the love of Christ overflowing in their heart. To love your own status or have self-regard for our own importance among men, will only bring woe into our life. To build or claim honour for any earthly kingdom will cause you to pitch your tent at a forsaken place and your candle will flicker and die out. We are not the fire, but we dwell where the fire burns brightly. This is the place where we are baptised in the Holy Spirit and with fire. The winnowing fork is in his hand and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Living with Jesus is a fearful place to be, but it is the only place to be – it is his unseen kingdom of love, joy, peace and truth. The humble will hear and be glad. It has never entered into the heart of man the good things that God has prepared for them that love him, for he has revealed it by his Spirit.

We must go outside the camp, outside the walled city. We must climb the highest mountain in the world – the mount of Calvary, where we must lay our burdens down. We must suffer and die with Christ and be crucified with him, crucified to the world and the world crucified to us. We will be exalted in due time and we will see a city whose builder and maker is God – we will see a land with no horizons – we will be like Phillip and preach a message that turns men's hearts from darkness to light.

The Lord Jesus had already foretold they were to preach the gospel and the kingdom of God and be witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth. After Stephen was stoned to death for his witness in Jerusalem, great persecution broke out against the called out ones in Jerusalem and all but the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.

Acts 8: 4-7

⁴ Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. ⁵ Phillip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. ⁶ When the crowds heard Phillip and saw miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said. ⁷ With shrieks, unclean spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. So there was great joy in that city.

Phillip encountered a man that was an instrument of Satan using magic arts to deceive the people. But this man thought the gifts of God could be bought with money. What was the message that caused the people to believe, it was the good news of the kingdom of God?

This begs to ask the question – what is the good news of the kingdom of God?

Jesus preached the kingdom of God – Paul preached the good news of Christ and his kingdom – Phillip preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ.

Do you hear the message of Jesus Christ and his kingdom or do you hear a message of works that exalts another kingdom?

Dear friends we can receive a kingdom now which has only one ruler and redeemer. We can return to the bishop of our souls, the true shepherd of the sheep who will not “fleece” you but will feed you.

It is the Father's good pleasure to give you this kingdom, but it must be received by faith in the promises God has made in Christ. It is not a seen kingdom, it is an unseen kingdom of truth, love, joy and peace. Once you know the reality of this kingdom, you will never wish to depart from it. The temptations will be intense and much suffering will be encountered, but the loss of its reality is far worse than any other suffering.

Luke 12: 29

²⁹ Do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. ³⁰ For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ But seek first the kingdom of God, and these things will be given to you as well. ³² Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

This is the same message that Jesus gave to the rich young ruler who trusted in his own self-righteousness through works. Jesus asked him to follow him, but he chose not to yield to the Son of God. This young ruler went away sorrowful and this is the same result for any person who rejects Jesus for their right standing before God. Money, power, fame and possessions may satisfy for a short time, but when the final call is made for you to give account, what will be your answer to this question?

What did you do with the life I granted you?

Did you go your own way to gain access to life? Did you climb up some other way into the sheep fold or did you enter by the door? Jesus said, I am the door into Christ's kingdom and if you come some other way, you are a thief and a robber.

Dear friend, now is the day of salvation, now is the day of the Lord, now is the day to repent and trust that Jesus was sent of God to save you from your sins and bring you into eternal life. God does not ask us to love him because he needs our love of him, but because we need our love of him. Let your heart be filled with the love of Christ and humbly accept the discipline of the Lord. Though the road is narrow, the joy of Christ's kingdom is immense.

God bless you and may his light shine upon you and bring you peace.

Bill and Sue (servants of Christ)

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