March 2024

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.

March 2024 Message

Come into the light, don't hover on the edge of the light, all your asking and prayers will be answered in the light of Christ.

Dear Friends,

We have just ended the month of February that has the least number of days out of all the months of the yearly calendar. Few would understand the history of why February has 28 days. Originally the calendar most widely used only had 10 months and was a lunar calendar. This calendar did not tie up with the seasons of spring-summer-autumn-winter, which covers a period of 12 months, so the Roman ruler added two months to the calendar. His name was Numa Pompilius. The two months added were January and February, this was to make the 12 monthly lunar cycles coincide with the four seasons.

The Romans considered that even numbers were unlucky according to their superstitions and they were reluctant to have a month ending in an even number of days. Because 12 multiplied by any uneven number always ends in an even number, they relented to February having an even number of days as it coincided with their time of honouring the dead. When the calendar was changed from a lunar cycle to a solar cycle, the number of days in February was retained because of convenience. So the myth and superstition remained. Our solar calendar calculates the earth to orbit the sun in 365 days, 6 hours and 9 minutes. This 6 hours and 9 minutes adds up to an extra day every four years and when added is designated as a leap year. This extra day is February 29th and when this extra day falls it is called a leap year. 2024 is leap year. This summary is a very small and incomplete account of our calendar's history.

Many traditions, conventions and institutions have common practices that are considered normal which were developed from ungodly, strange and unusual ideas.

Within the histories that appear as normative today, much has been birthed out of wars and strife, myth and legend, religion or science. Teachings that formulate ideas of superior over inferior, might over weakness, lies over truth, fear and terror over peace, natural understanding over transcendent revelation. These negate and blind the mind and become common practice and lead to captivity instead of freedom.

That which is called normal today, may have originated out of many of the above scenarios, so everything has to be tested by the truth. Things that appear as truth are not always true. What appears as truth in the natural world may crumble in the light of existential understanding.

History has a habit of devouring its children. History is the invention of the victor. The history of God is not recognised in the mind of natural men because mankind was subjected to darkness and the light of God has been hidden under a bushel. This history of God and his intervention in the affairs of men is revealed only in the holy prophecy of scriptures. This enlightenment is at many times obscured by the powers of darkness which throw a veil over the truth. Light will always expel the darkness both in the natural and spiritual worlds. Light is synonymous with the truth and darkness is synonymous with lies. True enlightment produces the light of life.

If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! (Matthew 6: 23). If the Son sets you free, you are free indeed. (John 8:36).

We as followers of Christ Jesus as Lord, make our claim for enlightened knowledge to come from the prophetic word of scripture which is revealed to us by the Holy Spirit of truth.

"We can do nothing against the truth only for it." (2 Corinthians 13:8).

To paraphrase this statement "The truth has the power to overcome every lie and no lie will ever overcome the truth." The truth may be suppressed by a lie but will never overcome it.

So, as followers of Christ Jesus as Lord, we believe that our guidance and leading comes through the Holy Spirit of truth, by him revealing the prophetic word of scripture to our hearts and minds, thereby determining our actions.

The witness of the truth can be known to us through our own actions. We thereby reveal our obedience to the truth by our deeds that lead to godliness. The axe is laid to the bad tree that brought forth bad fruit, and we now bring forth good fruit from the good tree which is the tree of life. Christ is the tree of life.

Because of this direction and guidance, we make claim to the truth being not of ourselves, but the truth being in the one who revealed himself to us as the Truth.

This is expressed in the prophetic word of scripture that the "One" who revealed himself to us can never lie.

Hebrews 6: 18-19

¹⁸ God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD TO LIE....... ¹⁹ We have an anchor for the soul.....

Titus 1: 1-2

¹ Paul a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God's elect and the knowledge of the <u>truth</u> that leads to godliness-² a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, WHO DOES NOT LIE, promised before the beginning of time.

Psalm 89: 35

Once for all, I have sworn by my holiness – and I WILL NOT LIE to David.

Here we have encountered the three-fold witness in scripture that God does not <u>LIE</u>, will not <u>LIE</u>, and it is impossible for God to <u>LIE</u> and he will not lie to his servants.

We can take this as the truth that God is incapable of lying. This may seem strange to many people, because in this realm called the "earthly existence" people do not want to put their trust in something they cannot see. Thereby, they dismiss everything concerning God, because of what is portrayed to them in the seen world.

The scripture declares that to see beyond the natural "eye sight" and see the <u>ONE WHO DOES NOT LIE</u> requires faith.

Hebrews 11: 6

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

What is faith?

Hebrews 11: 1

Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

How do we receive or obtain faith?

Romans 10: 17

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

Who is Christ?

Acts 2: 36

"Therefore, let all Israel be assured of this: GOD HAS MADE THIS JESUS, BOTH LORD AND CHRIST."

Jesus is the truth!

John 14: 6

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the <u>truth</u> and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Jesus brought the truth to us.

John 1: 17-18

.....grace and <u>truth</u> came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God, but God the <u>ONE AND ONLY</u>, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

The understanding of the believer is that now the unseen God can only be received by faith and this "faith" comes to us by hearing the word of Christ. This Christ is none other than him who came from the Father's side and this "Christ" is Jesus who is the only one who can reveal the truth of the Father and make him known. The reward is eternal life.

John 17: 3

Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

This faith that we are referring to in this message is the "faith" that reveals the truth and overcomes lies and deceits that will set the sinner free from the ravages of living in condemnation and sin. We noted in the early part of this message, that which can appear as normal and truthful may not be the case. The faith that we speak of is the "faith" that is in hearing the message of Jesus Christ. Many people have faith and faith in many things. Faith in themselves and their own ability, faith in their beliefs, faith in some idea or political persuasion, faith in their weapons of war and strife, faith in their religion or the teachings of that religion. Faith in whatever you can name, people put their faith under many banners and names.

The faith that we are writing and talking about, is faith that comes from God the Father who never lies to any man especially to those who serve him in Christ. God the Father of truth, who does not lie, has declared that Jesus Christ is "the truth" revealed. The only way "true truth" becomes a reality in an individual's heart and mind, is when they believe, trust and put their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord. Because everything else is a distraction and a deception that takes the broadway and leads to error and destruction.

The opposite to truth which is in God and him alone is declared in the prophecy of scripture.

John 8: 42

⁴² Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father you would love me, I came from God and now I am here. I have not come on my own, but he sent me. ⁴³ Why is my language not clear to you? You are unable to hear what I say. ⁴⁴ You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, <u>NOT HOLDING TO THE TRUTH, FOR THERE IS NO TRUTH IN HIM</u>. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵ Yet because I tell you the truth you do not believe me!

From this scripture we see there is an ongoing battle between truth and lies, myth and reality, and many people get sucked into a vortex of falsehood because they have strayed from Christ Jesus and the love of the truth. For some, they need more than Jesus to lead them to the Father and eternal life. Yet the prophecy of scripture declares there is only one mediator between God and man and that man is Christ Jesus. (1 Tim 2: 5).

Some prefer Adam, Abraham, Moses, Elijah, Jeremiah or one of the prophets to be their mediator. Or, in this modern day they prefer Mary, or a so called saint or a pope, a pastor, an institution or creed to be their mediator.

We here at Church Built of Living Stones have only one mediator and his name is Jesus our Lord, Christ, Saviour, Redeemer and King who loved us and died for us. We follow him in fear and trembling in our weakness and in our humility born out of wisdom, knowing it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. We preach Christ crucified for our sins and trespasses and we are crucified to the world and its dictations and lies and this world has been crucified to us. In other words, everything that tempts us to follow worldly ways as the truth, or anything that opposes the truth, that Christ is the way to the Father is treated as an anathema to us.

Christ lives, and the witness to this truth is sealed in our heart by the Holy Spirit. He is alive and lives in our hearts and minds and will never leave nor forsake us.

This does not mean we do not suffer doubt, ridicule and persecution for our belief, but we are strengthened to stand with all those that are alive who believe, along with all those who have gone before us, who stood in faith. Both them and us stand on a rock that cannot be shaken.

The kingdom that we belong to is gently bonded in our hearts and minds by the grace of God. We stand in faith - the true faith - faith in Christ. Many accuse us and call us fools for not adhering to their scientific theories and orthodoxies.

Yes! we are fools, fools for Christ.

Many anti-Christs have gone out into the world, and this world they believe in and come from may be a so called church, or it may be a persuasive political power or a scheme that is opposed to the gospel. No matter what, the anti-Christ always bears the mark of the beast and comes out of the abyss to trap and torment those who are trusting in Jesus.

These men are characterised in the following scriptures:

Romans 1: 25

They exchanged the truth of God for a lie.

Romans 1: 28

Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not be done.

In the world of the seen realm not all things are what they appear, especially in the realm of authority. This is why we are called to live by faith and not by sight and lean not on our own understanding but to acknowledge him in all our ways.

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 paths.

2 Thessalonians 2: 9-10

⁹ The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in <u>ALL KINDS</u> of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders. ¹⁰ And in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and be saved.

God by the Holy Spirit has placed a love for Jesus Christ as Lord within the believer's heart so that they will not perish with the unbeliever and the wicked of this world.

The love of the world and its practices are 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, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For everything in the world – the cravings of sinful man, the lust of the eyes, the pride of life, and the boasting of what he has and does – comes not from the Father, but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

It is God's will that we love Jesus with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and love our neighbour with the same heart and mind, this includes loving our enemies and all unbelievers. To honour the fatherless and the widow. To preach the gospel without fear or favour. He has shown us what is good, to love mercy, to do justice and to walk humbly before God. To refuse the praises of men, but to live unto the unseen Father through faith in Jesus Christ and him alone. To seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and to put our trust in God alone and refuse the temptations of the world which Christ has delivered us from. We must resist the devil and he will flee from us — the devil is the father of lies and the truth is not in him or any of his schemes and ideas.

The will of God and his purpose and plan, is for all men to be transferred into the kingdom of the Son of his love and be matured and transformed into Christ's likeness. Now clothed in the full armour of God we resist and overcome the prince of darkness with the grace and strength the Spirit provides. We must trust in Christ alone believing that all the promises of God are in him and that he abides in us because we are <u>HIS</u> inheritance and <u>HE</u> is our inheritance.

As we alluded to in our opening part of this message, not all that is normal today came from a pure place. This is why God instructs us to seek and ask for his wisdom which in first principle is pure. (James 3: 17). We are instructed through prophetic scripture that the wisdom given us is a person.

1 Corinthians 1: 24.

But to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, <u>Christ</u> the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Jesus Christ is our wisdom from God and has become the purity of truth and sanctifying morality to us through the powerful working of the Holy Spirit. We are separated unto his holiness. Jesus and his teaching sanctifies us and separates us from the minutest falsehoods that can develop into fully fledged lies. But to know the reality of this we must remain in the Spirit of Truth.

Men in their greed and lusts for worldly pleasures and joys, become agents of the devil and draw many disciples with them, they depart from the truth of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. They add to or subtract from the prophecy of the scripture and develop a code of ethics and endeavours that are far from the power that is in Christ Jesus. When men succumb to these persuasions after knowledge of the truth they open themselves to the second death. This should strike an awesome reverential fear of God in our hearts.

We must test the spirits to see whether they are of God.

John prophesied in **Revelation 13: 11.**

Then I saw another beast coming out of the earth, he had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon.

The agent of Satan appears as a lamb, but is really a beast and does counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders. The apostle John encourages us that it is only wisdom that will give us insight to calculate the number of the beast.

All these prophetic apocalyptic statements and writings of John were to encourage the people of his day what they would experience. No one who follows Jesus Christ as Lord, Saviour, Creator and Redeemer in any epoch of creation history will escape the onslaughts of satanic power. But the truth lies in God's promise that Jesus has overcome the world by faith and we overcome every lie, every deception, every worldly temptation, every fear, every ridicule, every accusation through this same faith, which is faith in Christ. Because greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world.

1 John 4: 4-6

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. ⁵ They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit¹⁰ of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

Hallelujah our God reigns. May the God of peace comfort you with all joy in the love of Christ.

Bill and Sue (servants of Christ)