

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.

**“May his Kingdom come and his will be done on earth as it is in Heaven”**

**PART 1**

**2 Peter 1: 12-15**

*<sup>12</sup> So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth. <sup>13</sup> I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, <sup>14</sup> because I know I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. <sup>15</sup> And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.*

Dear Friends,

Peter was fully aware that his life in the body was temporary and that a greater dimension of life in the Spirit awaited him and also for all those who kept the faith in Jesus. He wished to keep reminding the faithful that their life in Christ was more precious than gold or silver or any worldly pursuit, but required diligence and perseverance. The life that God had called the saints to adhere to was one of faith that worked by love and resulted in the fruit of holiness unto eternal life.

Peter made every effort to make sure the disciples kept these qualities that increased in measure and would keep the disciples and followers from being ineffective and unproductive in their knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and his kingdom.

Those that do not persevere in the faith would become nearsighted and blind and dull of hearing and become as ones who had fallen asleep.

We are reminded that the scripture says *“awake thou that sleepest and Christ will give you light”* – the light that Christ gives is the light of life – it is the light and knowledge of the new life in the new creation – the day of the Lord.

Jesus brought the life of the coming age into this sin darkened world and dispelled the darkness and destroyed the works of Satan, giving a sound hope to those who believed.

Jesus brought the kingdom of God to this earth and it is the Father’s good pleasure or his perfect will that you receive and enter this kingdom – which comes not by observation – but it is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit and those that serve Christ in this manner are pleasing to God and are approved by men.

Many today, do not believe the kingdom of God has come and do not believe this kingdom can be received and entered by faith. They give more of reality to the church than they do to Christ’s kingdom. The true “church” are the people of God called out of Satan’s kingdom into the kingdom of the Son of his love.

If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation and the former way of doing things is gone and all things are made new again. The true “church or “ecclesia” are as living stones which are joined to the head and are the “body” of Christ the “church”. To these believers they have no other Lord and teacher than Jesus Christ. Anything or anyone not joined to the head which is Christ, is not the church.

The true “church” or “body” of Christ live in an unseen kingdom that is revealed to them by the Holy Spirit. It is a kingdom of light, love and joy. In this kingdom everyone is taught of the Lord and they hear the gentle voice of Jesus and a stranger they will not follow.

This kingdom is not over there, or over here, because this kingdom is within them and when they are guided by the Lord who is the Spirit, they fellowship among those who abide in Christ’s word and in his kingdom.

This kingdom and its reality can only be heard and known through the word of Christ.

This kingdom does not come by observation.

This kingdom is one of promise and can only be received by faith.

*Faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen.*

The true “church” or “ecclesia” or the “body” of Christ the called out ones, who make Jesus Christ Lord, have an abiding home on this earth which cannot be seen with the “naked eye” but can only be encountered by faith in Christ. This kingdom becomes more real than the earthly realm as we grow more and more in love with Jesus and then grow more and more in faith.

As we listen in obedience to the “word of Christ” we understand we have been near sighted and blind to the rich goodness that is revealed in God’s only precious and unique Son.

It is the goodness of God and his loving kindness that causes us to repent of our unfaithfulness in not following the voice and gentle way of Jesus. The voice of Jesus is calling us to repent of our own goodness and enter Christ’s kingdom where all righteousness is attributed to Jesus and his unflawed work at Calvary. Our own works and high mindedness fail in the light of the glory of God revealed in Jesus Christ and him alone.

Our so called works all become “shifting shadows” in the light of the glory of God revealed in the mighty works of Christ from the river Jordan baptism to the cross on Calvary.

How can we who are works of God ourselves - take any praise for the works that Christ does through us? The result of truth is when we bow down in humility and give him all the praise and the glory for the good things he has done.

We as “true believers” the “body” of Christ or the called out ones, live by faith in the Son of God who loved us and died for us. All temptations of evil are to draw us away from Christ’s sovereignty and lordship which reign in his kingdom.

Let us not hide this light under a bushel but give all honour, praise and glory to the rightful heir and Sovereign Lord King of all mankind.

Peter writes in **2 Peter 1: 16-21**

*<sup>16</sup> We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eye witnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup> For he received honour and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the majestic glory, saying “This is my Son, whom I love, with him I am well pleased”. <sup>18</sup> We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain. <sup>19</sup> And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. <sup>20</sup> Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of scripture came by the prophets own interpretation. <sup>21</sup> For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

Peter was in a privileged position of not only knowing Jesus in the flesh but also hearing a declaration from the majestic heaven in a voice which declared Jesus' true identity but was an eye witness of this majesty.

Peter was not speaking through a second-hand account but as an eye witness and was declaring the truth that the words the prophets spoke were no longer a hidden mystery but were now made abundantly clear. He was then encouraging others to pay attention to his words. He said let these words be like a light shining in a dark place. Let these words bring light to your darkened and shadowed mind until the day dawns and the "morning star" arises in your hearts. Jesus is the morning star heralding the new day.

What is the day that dawns?

The day that dawns is when the light turns on in your mind when Jesus is revealed to you as the sovereign Lord of all creation and that he is the door into the kingdom of God. This door or gate is a straight gate and it takes the "sloughing off" of everything that you counted worthy of as right standing with God. The "true believer" must die to every work that he or she thought brought themselves fellowship and right standing before the Father of lights. The "true believer" must die daily to the love of the world and its institutions and systems that have rules and regulations that are useless to free the mind and conscience of guilt, of sin and fear of death. The only power that can set the sinner free from guilt is a true understanding of the cross of Christ and the shed blood of Jesus. Anything apart from this is birthed by a vain spirit which stands opposed to the truth and victory won by Jesus Christ. The victory wrought by faith in Jesus Christ causes the old nature to yield to the nature of Christ in us. Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world. If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Jesus Christ. The yielded spirit knows that Jesus is Lord and that he – that is Jesus – is the Lord and the only one who can grant access into his kingdom.

This kingdom is described in **1 Corinthians 4: 20-21** as just not mere talk.

*<sup>20</sup> The kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power <sup>21</sup> what do you prefer? Shall I come to you with a whip, or in love and with a gentle 'spirit'?*

The power of the Holy Spirit manifesting the Spirit of Christ is always loving, humble, meek and gentle.

The kingdom of God is one of power but not a power the world uses, it is the power of love, truth, grace, mercy, humility, meekness and a gentle spirit. Any other spirit is not the manifestation of the Lord Jesus Christ and this spirit comes from the father of lies. This gentle and meek Christ like way of dealing with every issue is the power of the risen Lord. Jesus demonstrated the kingdom of God as the "way", the "way" that he met every opposing force on his journey that culminated at the cross. It is not just a pathway it is the "way" we walk this pathway. He submitted to every known power that the rulers of this world use to subject their authority and rule over men. Jesus never used the world's powers to manifest his kingdom authority. He laid down his life in humility and meekness in obedience to his Father's will and word even though he had to suffer. His suffering in obedience to his Father's will was to lay down his life at the cross of Calvary and to endure every accusation, every indignity, every scourge and mocking, every foul satanic onslaught and every offence without opening his mouth, as he was led as an innocent lamb to the slaughter. Jesus practiced what he preached. He demonstrated to his own disciples that as a true servant of God the suffering that is endured and that is sometimes required, far exceeds the ability of any human capacity. But Jesus showed the "way" of this kingdom is accomplished with knowledge and wisdom that this world cannot teach. The only one that can teach this and fulfil this type of life is the triune God.

God the Father wills his will and purpose.  
God the Son fulfils the Father's will and purpose.  
God the Holy Spirit teaches God's will and purpose.

We must ask God for wisdom and this wisdom will be revealed in Jesus alone.

When we obey the teachings of Christ, the Holy Spirit strengthens us with the same abilities that Jesus demonstrated as the way, the truth and the life. We must walk as Jesus walked in total reliance upon our Father by the Holy Spirit.

The "way" is the way that Jesus as the Lamb of God walked and is the only "way" that he could take away the sin of the world. The Lamb of God bore our sins and weaknesses and carried them to the cross, shed his blood for our sake and took away the judgement against us.

Hearin is the fulfilment of the scripture. *"What is impossible with man is possible with God"*.

We can look to scripture for an example. Matthew 19, the encounter with a rich young ruler.

This young ruler obeyed all the commandments and was classed as a righteous man and by good living was a wealthy man. Under the old covenant of the law of Moses he was entitled to gain earthly riches. But when confronted by Jesus to give up all that he thought gave him right standing in God's eyes and to follow Jesus to the cross, this man could not enter the kingdom that Jesus was offering him. Jesus said; *"give all you have to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven"*. Yes, treasure in heaven not treasure on earth. The rich have received their reward on earth and unless they give this up for the greater riches they will not enjoy the inheritance of Christ's kingdom.

Even the disciples were astonished and were so perplexed when they observed this and they uttered – *"who then can be saved?"* Jesus looked and said; *"With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible"* and *"strive to enter in at the straight gate"*.

Impetuous Peter was indignant and said; *"We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?"*

This may be the question you ask yourself "what is in it for me?" This may seem a self-serving question but it still must be a question with an answer.

The proof that Peter and the disciples misunderstood Jesus and his destiny is answered by their abandonment of Jesus at the crucifixion. They all deserted him and went back to their old way of life. They were found by Jesus after the cross on the shore of Galilee back at their stock and trade. They were plying their trade as fishermen but without success. But under Jesus' instruction they received a hundred fold for their toil. Their calling was not in this world their true calling was in God's kingdom, where Jesus had called them at the beginning. They were to be fishers of men bringing men into God's kingdom. This is our calling as well.

Referring back to the text in Matthew 19.

In reply to Peter when he said; *"We have given up all to follow you. What then will be in it for us?"*

Jesus gave them the truthful answer.

#### **Matthew 19: 28-30**

<sup>28</sup> *"I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>29</sup> And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive*

*a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.<sup>30</sup> But many will be last and many who are last will be first.*

The moral of this account is whatever you give up in this life is nothing in comparison to the glory that will be given us in eternal life. What is impossible with man is possible with God.

What a glorious message is the gospel and the kingdom of God. Don't be fooled by false teachers and false prophets who proclaim many things have to take place before the kingdom of God can come. The kingdom of God is here now by promise and will be manifest in the glorious future - but only in Christ - the future is ours in Christ.

**1 Corinthians 3: 21-23**

*<sup>21</sup> So then no more boasting about men! All things are yours, <sup>22</sup> whether Paul, Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future, all are yours, <sup>23</sup> and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.*

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