

October 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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October 2021 Message

Jesus Christ is the Answer

Dear Friends,

With the pandemic of Covid19 and the Delta variant appearing as the dominant issue in the world today, many are left wondering - where is God in all of this? Questions of faith arise and many of the so called answers only create confusion.

We are reminded that the truth is always in Jesus – not in the ideas and plans of naturally minded men. Everyone that loves the Lord and lives by faith has times when they are sure of God's love and their future is secure regarding their job and family. But there are "moments in time" of doubt, uncertainty and trouble. At these moments we are reminded this world is not a secure place. Our trust will be rocked when our hope is in the arm of the flesh and at these times we are to remember the words of Jesus in the gospel of Matthew.

Matthew 24:35

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

Our trust in Jesus' word is the true measure of our faith. Jesus has given us his word of promise that we can dwell in his kingdom while we live in this earth and continue in it in the age to come. Many so called teachers of the word of God say that this kingdom is only in the future.

The idea of a kingdom is sometimes foreign to the modern mind. A kingdom is an analogy for authority, rule and power. A kingdom must have a king and a kingdom must have citizens.

The kingdom of God was prepared before the foundation of the world. The king that God chose to rule over his kingdom was Jesus Christ. Jesus rules over his kingdom through grace and the power of the Holy Spirit in accordance with the prophetic word. To say the kingdom of Christ does not rule now is to deny Jesus is the Sovereign Ruler over the earth. Jesus must rule and reign until all things are put under his feet, then he will deliver up his kingdom unto God when the Father will be all in all.

In the earth there are two kingdoms; the kingdom of light and the kingdom of darkness. The kingdom of darkness is passing away and the kingdom of light is now shining. These two kingdoms are diametrically opposed to one another, but their effects can be realised in the human soul and are played out in this world.

There is a de-facto king who rules in the power of darkness and subjugates the citizens of the world through lies, deception and fear.

The kingdom of darkness is one of fear and every evil practice. The truth in Jesus Christ delivers us from this kingdom into the kingdom of light. Though darkness and evil operate in this present age, God's grace, mercy, love and truth revealed in God's word are sufficient to overcome all the works of Satan and his temptations. The truth in Jesus is able to keep you in perfect peace when your mind is stayed on him. The age of darkness cannot be overcome by using the methods of the world, the flesh or the devil. The light always overcomes the darkness both naturally and spiritually, this is evident. When the light of the gospel of Christ and his kingdom is understood and obeyed, the darkness is defeated and the de-facto king is dethroned. This is only achieved by faith in Jesus Christ.

Matthew 6: 19-24

¹⁹ *"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ²² "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! ²⁴ "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.*

We are instructed to rightly divide the word of truth or correctly handle the scriptures. The scriptures can be used as a weapon through misinterpretation and natural wisdom to deceive. When Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness and tempted by Satan, the weapon that the devil used was scripture. He used the written word of God to tempt Jesus into sin by obeying his misinterpretation of

God's word. This method of warfare is still used by Satan and his agents to confuse and darken the minds of men. The natural interpretation of scripture is used this very day to hold men, women and children in bondage. It is the most devastating and diabolical error to distort the prophetic word of God.

How can we know what is the truth and what is deception?

All scripture is given by inspiration from God and is profitable for reproof, rebuke and instruction in righteousness, but it is the prophecy of the scripture that brings the light of life.

Jesus said in **Revelation 22: 7**.

"Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book".

When the messenger angel came to the apostle John in the book of Revelation, he was commanded to write the words that came to him from God in heaven.

Revelation 19: 9-10

⁹ Then the angel said to me, write: "Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!" and he added "These are the true words of God". ¹⁰ At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

What an amazing and insightful portion of scripture. All the angels or messengers must bow down and worship Jesus and are his servants. Anyone, whether it be an angel or a human being who comes to you wearing robes of self-superior righteousness or an attitude of superiority and not as a fellow servant, cannot and will not bring the true testimony of Jesus. The character of Jesus is in truth, gentleness and humility. Jesus' nature is always revealed in meekness and limitation with a virtuous character that fully serves and trusts in God and God alone and does not trust in the arm of the flesh.

Even though Jesus is the Lion of the tribe of Judah, he was declared in visionary form to John as a lamb slain upon the throne. It is impossible for a lamb to hurt or dominate anyone or anything, yet it is the virtue of character that God has chosen to overcome all evil.

No one can come to the marriage supper of the Lamb except through the straight gate and down the narrow path that leads to life. The marriage garments of the lamb are gentleness, humility and meekness. Unless these virtues abide in your heart, you will never see the Lord – you will have a double minded heart and receive nothing from the Lord Jesus.

Oh yes you will receive interpretations of scripture, but they will not be from Jesus.

The apostle Peter wrote in holy writ.

2 Peter 1: 16-21

¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ We ourselves heard his voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain. ¹⁹ 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 arises in your hearts. ²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of scripture

came about by the prophet's interpretation. ²¹ *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.*

The Holy Spirit of God is the only one who can grant the human heart and mind the treasures of wisdom that are contained in the knowledge of the glory of God in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit will not teach you to build a kingdom, he will teach you to abide in Christ's kingdom.

The scripture which we call the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, not only declare the truth, but clearly reveal Jesus' disciple's failure to understand the ministry of Jesus and his purpose. Their failures and disbelief are for our example. Many times Jesus upbraided them for their lack of faith (does this seem familiar to us?). Faith is always built upon a solid foundation and not upon shifting sand. The true foundation of faith is the rock Christ Jesus, and to build upon any other foundation will bring the house down when the storms of life come. Jesus gave teaching about the word that was sown and the ground that received this word.

Mark 4: 14-15

¹⁴ The farmer sows the word. ¹⁵ some people are like seed along the path, where the seed is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.

This is what it is like in this world the exact moment the seed or word is sown in our heart the ruler of darkness comes to take away the truth. The disciples of Christ experienced this when they misunderstood the purpose of the cross of Christ. Jesus in his compassionate wisdom warned them that Satan would sift them as wheat and he had prayed that their faith would keep them whole. What they had perceived as failure and the victory of evil at the cross was in reality the defeat of every evil intent and purpose. In the cross was their salvation and the redemption of God's creation.

The moment we receive true revelation from heaven it incurs Satan's activity. This is what causes men to seek for evidence they can see with the natural eye rather than to have the evidence of faith in what they can't see. It is an easier process to trust in what is seen than to trust what is invisible.

When the apostle Peter was granted divine revelation that Jesus was the Christ the presence of Satan was immediate. Jesus told Peter that this knowledge he had received was given to him by his Father in heaven.

Later Jesus told the disciples the plan of God.

Matthew 16: 21-23

²¹ From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priest and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

Peter's response born of the flesh, was to rebuke the Lord and oppose the salvation plan of God.

²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never Lord" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

Jesus' response was startling;

²³ Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

Jesus is clearly implying that Satan's deceitfulness operates through naturally minded men and this duplicity does not originate from God. Revelation knowledge comes when we humble ourselves under God's mighty hand, it is not to exalt us but to extend the kingdom of God and overcome the evil one. Another example of what can happen when we receive divine revelation is to revert to our natural thinking and build a structure or movement in the seen realm; such as a church building or denomination.

Let us read a passage of scripture from Luke's gospel, where Jesus takes Peter, John and James up onto a mountain to pray.

Luke 9: 28-36

²⁸ About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. ²⁹ As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. ³⁰ Two men, Moses and Elijah, ³¹ appeared in glorious splendour, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfilment at Jerusalem. ³² Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. ³³ As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters — one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.) ³⁴ While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him." ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves and told no one at that time what they had seen.

This scripture records what occurred, what was spoken about and what was to happen in Jerusalem. The disciples were sleepy but soon became fully awake, this was not a vision or a dream, but was full on revelation. Peter immediately reverted to his fleshly nature and wanted to build something in the "seen realm". He desired to build three tabernacles as places of worship. The scripture clearly says "He did not know what he was talking about". Following this episode, a voice from the cloud said; "This is my Son, whom I have chosen, listen to him". The voice was not talking about Elijah or Moses, because the only one standing there was Jesus. Moses and Elijah represented the law and the prophets, but God was now saying we must listen to Jesus alone. The response of the disciples was to keep this to themselves and tell no one at the time what they had seen or heard. The reason for this is that what is revealed to you must be anchored in your soul. You must receive the word that Jesus Christ teaches you and you must anchor it in your soul.

Proverbs 23: 23

Buy the truth and do not sell it; get wisdom, discipline and understanding.

Remember revelation knowledge is not to exalt you, but to extend the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Do not let Satan steal the word of truth sown in your heart. Many men have fallen for Satan's trap and have received the voice of Jesus but have then been tempted into building edifices, structures and ideologies that are only kingdoms of this world that are empowered by human endeavours and not by the Spirit of the Lord. Jesus was offered all the kingdoms in a moment in time by Satan, but he refused them and chose to worship the only true and wise God, his heavenly Father. It takes courage and faith to step outside the walls of old Jerusalem and enter the new Jerusalem, the mother of us all.

To attempt to come to heavenly knowledge except through the “door” and in the character and virtue of Christ, is to come some other way and this is the way of the thief and the robber.

Jesus is the door and no man comes to the Father but by the Son and this Son is Jesus Christ the Lord and King. Jesus is the king of the kingdom of Christ and his kingdom is the kingdom of light.

The opening passage of bible scripture begins with God and light and darkness. Proclaiming in Genesis chapter one in the scripture God said;

“Let there be light and God saw the light was good and separated the light from the darkness”.

The character of this light was good and the manifestation of this creative light was openly very good.

Genesis 1: 31

God saw all that he made, and it was very good.....

The character of this light throughout scripture prophecy is always very good and its fullness remained hidden until it was manifest in the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is the living Word or logos, the Word is God and only God is good. The prophetic Word or logos is always very good. The Word or logos dispels the darkness and reveals the light. In the light we see light. Jesus is the true light and he that follows him will not walk in darkness but have the light of life.

John 8: 12

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

The apostle Paul wrote in **2 Corinthians 4: 1-7:**

¹ Therefore, since through God’s mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. ² Rather we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God. ³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ The God of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ who is the image of God. ⁵ For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. ⁶ For God, who said “Let light shine out of darkness”, made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. ⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show this all surpassing power is from God and not from us.

Adam’s race can have the seed of all surpassing power and character planted in their heart and this seed is Christ. They become a new creation by a new birth when they are born of God and their names are written the Lamb’s book of life, which is the kingdom of light. We are now by promise living in the kingdom of God. This is the kingdom which Jesus lived in while he was commissioned in his earthly ministry. This kingdom is the kingdom of the age to come. This kingdom wrought by the power of the Holy Spirit drove out demons and unclean spirits, it is the finger of God. We can now sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the presence of God at a table of the Lord in God’s kingdom.

Jesus entered Satan’s domain, cast out demons and unclean spirits and destroyed the works of Satan and taught his disciples about the kingdom of God.

You may ask “why is Satan still active in the world today if he is defeated?”. The methods of Satan are lies and deception and keeping men, women and children locked in the darkness. Rebellion and disobedience to God are the character of this ruler. The natural minded man abides in this nature today, in scripture it is called the ‘sinful nature’. Only the gospel of Jesus Christ and the light of his kingdom can free men, women and children from the ravages of sin and darkness and depose this false ruler.

God the Father raised Jesus higher above and over any principality or power, he gave him a name above every other name and put all things under his feet. Jesus was faithful and obedient unto death, even a death on a cross and practised what he preached. He took all the taunts and accusations in a humble spirit and remained obedient to the word of prophecy attributed to the righteous one in the book of Isaiah.

Isaiah 53

¹ Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

² He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

³ 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.

⁴ Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.

⁵ 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.

⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷ 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.

⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken

away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied, by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, 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.

When Jesus was raised up as King over all the earth, he sent the Holy Spirit into our hearts to exercise his dominion over all flesh and manifest the Spirit of Christ. He has given his children the power to exercise authority in the earth and bring all things into subjection to Christ. But to exercise this power and authority

in any other way, other than the way revealed in Jesus Christ, will only bring confusion, strife and unhappiness.

Jesus said in the **Matthew 11: 28-30**.

²⁸ Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

Men that interpret the scriptures through natural mindedness will always lay a burden on your soul.

Such as....

- They will build an earthly denomination or institution.
- They will use empirical lines of superiority and titles to exercise authority.
- You have to believe their interpretation of the bible.
- You have to give into their ministry or church because they cannot survive without money.
- You have to conform to their image instead of the image of Christ.
- If you miss the mark or do not do penance and show remorse to their satisfaction, they ostracise you.
- They will tighten the grip on your soul, rather than releasing you into Christ's liberty.
- Their idea of servanthood is to serve them and their denomination, they call it serving Christ.
- Their idea of incurring honour is by titles and positions. Whereas in Christ's humility, he made himself of no reputation.
- The church and its fellowship is more important than fellowship with the Father and his Son.
- The world and its systems take paramount importance rather than the virtues of Christ.
- They believe they have power to excommunicate rather than the greatest heavenly attribute of Christ – the power to forgive.
- Their church and ecclesiastical systems have a form of godliness, but deny the power of God.
- They worship God through denominational structure that invites corruption through empirical power and bowing down to the demon of mammon.
- Their evidence of truth and success is in their number of followers.
- They use their supposed righteousness rather than repentance to cover their misdeeds.
- All these movements and denominations divide and rely on tradition rather than on Christ and his kingdom.
- They pray to saints rather than to Jesus and honour the dead rather than the living Lord.
- Jesus divested himself of his heavenly glory and was numbered with the transgressors.

Jesus said *"I saw Satan as lightning fall from heaven"*. Then he came into this earth in the flesh to break Satan's power over mankind and destroy his works. Satan's works are manifest by unbelief and denying there is a loving, living Father God and that there is life after death.

Jesus defeated all those lies by revealing the character and truthfulness of a loving, living heavenly Father and overcoming death through obedience to him. The prophecy of scripture is true because the life is in Jesus and not in the theologies of men. Whoever has the Son and believes in him has eternal life. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. The theologies of men are not necessarily the theologies of Jesus.

The prophecy of the scripture cannot and will not be snuffed out by lies, deception or traditions of men.

No matter what science or accumulated knowledge may reveal, it will never overcome revelation knowledge. Revelation knowledge is the knowledge of God's goodness, truthfulness, mercy, love and

grace in the character and person of Christ Jesus the Lord. The apostle John referred to the Book of Revelation as scripture of a revelation of Jesus Christ. Naturally minded men study this book with great abandon to discover the future rather than to discover Christ who is the future. To them it is a book that's an enigma but to the seeking soul it is a book of God's undying love for mankind.

The world and its systems cannot reveal the beginning and the end – only the Alpha and Omega can reveal God's purpose and plan. The Alpha and Omega is Jesus Christ and God's perfect plan is revealed in the humility of the cross of Christ where Jesus laid down his life for all and justified many. God has incorporated all men, women and children in his eternal purpose and he will divide the sheep from the goats and the tares from the wheat. The gospel and the kingdom of God must be preached throughout the earth before the end can come. Each man must repent and believe the gospel and the kingdom of God before the end of this world can be revealed in their heart. Until this moment "in time" comes to their heart, they will build walls that divide rather than preach Christ crucified the power of God who alone unifies.

Jesus said:

John 10: 1-5

¹ I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate (or door) but climbs in some other way is a thief and a robber. ² The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. ³ The watchman opens the gate for him and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognise a stranger's voice.

Do you know the voice of Jesus or are you following a stranger's voice?

You may ask, "how can I know the voice of Jesus?" The voice of Jesus is always the truth, it is always gentle and full of the wisdom of humility and will lead you to follow him. His voice is comforting, loving, compassionate, merciful and kind, causing you to give up all fortune and fame to follow him.

His voice will always lead you to lay down your life to the world and its systems and ideas. His voice takes you out of the world and then sends you back into the world with enabling grace for you to lay down your life for the world. You will not be called to judge the world because they already abide under the condemnation and the wrath to come. You are to imitate God who loved the world and sent his only Son into the world to redeem them. We are in the world but not of it. We cannot operate like the world but are to bear the ridicule and shame the world heaped upon Jesus. As he is, so are we in this world. We proclaim salvation from sin and death and the lies and deceptions of Satan through the gospel of Jesus Christ and the kingdom of God. The power of the King of this kingdom has the power to penetrate the thickest wall and bring light to every darkened place.

The kingdom of God is not of this world and it does not come by observation. It is a kingdom that is lived by faith in the word of Christ and is true and builds hope that believes in a better eternal world than the world we live in now. The fruits of Jesus' life can be experienced and enjoyed here on earth while we live in the flesh. The suffering and pain we endure for the kingdom is not through our own sin but through the suffering of love for all mankind as we share the pain thrust upon them by a false power which will never bring the unity of peace. Whatever man in his universal and everlasting search for love and peace endures, it will never bring him the results he craves for. The rejection of Jesus is so widespread it appears that God is losing the battle. A powerless form of Christianity is causing the truth to be ridiculed, other false religions are growing but bringing fear, anxiety and bondage. Corruption by leaders in every type of

institution and natural wisdom of sciences is not diminishing poverty, illnesses and plagues but is increasing the problems of the world because of their blinded allegiance to idolatry.

As we began our message we mentioned the effect the Covid 19/Delta pandemic was causing throughout the different nations of this world. Economies, governments, countries, families and all relationships are being tested. People of all persuasions have an opinion on how to deal with this problem and confusion, anxiety and worry prevail.

Men in stubbornness like Pharaoh will not seek and obey God. They blame God and question – where is a loving living God in all this and how can we believe in a God who could allow us all to suffer and not come to our aide?

Two thousand years ago, God the Father provided the answer to this question, but natural minded men later took the scriptures and denied the power of the true God and invented rules, regulations and doctrines that took the power of God out of Jesus' hand and put it into their own hands. Natural minded men do the work of Satan and use empirical superiority and mammon to rule and they call it spiritual. The so-called church is of the world and is now in Satan's sway. This wisdom does not come from above.

The true men of faith will continue to believe in the faithfulness of Jesus and his heavenly Father. The answer is always found in the prophecy of the scripture as it is written in the book of Romans.

Romans 9: 33

³³ *As it is written:*

*"See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes people to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall,
and the one who believes in him will never be put to shame."*

Jesus will be a stumbling block that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall. The one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.

1 Corinthians 15: 54-58

⁵⁴ *When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory".* ⁵⁵ *"Where O death, is your victory? Where, O death is your sting?"* ⁵⁶ *The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.* ⁵⁷ *But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.* ⁵⁸ *Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.*

We are not to devote ourselves and our efforts to manmade institutions and ideologies, but to give ourselves wholly to Christ and his kingdom.

Galatians 5: 14

You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen from grace.

Christ's kingdom which he rules over, is not self-seeking power, is not self-regarding love, is not self-serving servant-hood, is not self-seeking praise, but always shows forth the approval of God in honour and praise. Testifying to God's grace, that he would use broken vessels to bring about his plan.

The kingdom of Christ is an unseen kingdom of the heart which always abides in the truth, always gives, always seeks the advancement of Christ's glory and rejects institutional corruption. The kingdom of God suffers many things and always suffers for righteousness sake. The kingdom of God is always bringing the

light of life and dispelling the darkness that hides in the recesses of power and hierarchy. The kingdom of God seeks out the broken and the lost. The kingdom of Christ is always Christ honouring, Christ worshipping and always exalting God the Father and worshipping him out of a grateful heart of thanksgiving and praise. The kingdom of God is made up of repentant sinners whose righteousness is Christ and Christ's righteousness alone.

This Christ honouring worship rejects temple worship because it says in **Matthew 12: 6** *"I tell you, one greater than the temple is here."* The true temple is the body of Christ and no man can build this temple. This temple is a living creation not built by men's hands, but made alive through Christ and Christ alone. Lawful men will reject this message, but the prophecy of scripture will never pass away and will accomplish what it was sent for.

The Mosaic law and its rites, rituals and temple worship abided until Christ and was made redundant as a form of achieving righteousness. The fulfilment of God's righteousness is faith in Jesus Christ. Moses' law could not bring life and endured until Christ came and fulfilled its demands. The fulfilment of the law is love for God and your brother. Jesus brought a greater law than Moses and he fulfilled every broken commandment and every trespass that the Mosaic law demanded. The law of Moses could not bring life. Christ is our life. The true worshippers, worship the Father in spirit and in truth and the Father seeks such to worship him.

Galatians 3: 21

Is the law opposed to the promises of God? Certainly not, for if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly come from the law.

Romans 8: 2

Because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

We are set free from Sabbath breaking - *For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.* **Matthew 12: 8.**

We are freed from every rule and regulation under the old covenant because with a new covenant there comes a new priesthood and a new law. The new High Priest of our confession is Jesus Christ. The law of circumcision was abolished and the uncircumcision of our sinful nature was dealt with at Calvary. Under the new covenant we have a new heart and a new spirit out of which issues the love of God through the Holy Spirit. This new covenant was not ratified by any other creature's blood, but by the blood of Jesus, God's only Son.

Colossians 2: 13-15

¹³ God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins. ¹⁴ Having cancelled the written code, with its regulations, stood opposed to us, he took it away nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

In this world today, there are those that live a life of discipline not much different than the Pharisees and leaders in the days of Jesus. They distort the word of God that brings life, by resorting to rules and regulations of worship that hinder believers from entering the kingdom of Christ. They proclaim denominational temple worship in violence to the word of Christ. Jesus left the temple and built a temple of living stones. The regenerated hearts of sinful men, women and children were impacted and he is building his temple as a holy habitation for God the Father. This temple is unseen, it is invisible, but it is as real as anything you can see with the natural eye. God and the Lamb are the light and the glory of this temple. Every commandment is fulfilled by love in this kingdom temple and the unclean and the liars can never enter into it. Flesh and blood can never enter this kingdom because this kingdom is entered by new

birth and only those who humble themselves and believe in Jesus as the anointed fulfilment of scripture prophecy can proclaim the truth of it. This kingdom of Christ is open to all men that they may be free from the fear of death and have eternal life. The men of the flesh will reject this message because they cannot believe that Christ can guide and lead God's children. These people are 'shadow casters' and think more highly of themselves than they ought to think.

If we put our trust in keeping the unliveable demands of Mosaic scriptural law, instead of the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus, we will only lead people into misery, fear and doubt. If we dress up a righteousness of our own and refuse to allow the living Lord to cleanse the inner recesses of our heart, we will only bring misery and anxiety to others as well as ourselves. If we set ourselves up in denominational honorific titles, we miss the truth of the cross. Jesus only did and said what his Father instructed. He was willing to lay down his own will to the point of what seemed failure and defeat to all who followed him. He laid down his life for us to bring glory and praise to his Father's power of mercy and grace. He laid down his own will and became subject to the will of every known institution and power on earth even to the point of death. He obeyed to bring glory to God by declaring that no matter what evil did, the goodness of God would overcome it through life. Men in their unbelief and their desire to see instead of believing in faith, started to build what Jesus destroyed and fell to the wiles of Satan and captivated men to think that hierarchal empires and systems were the kingdom of God.

The truth revealed in the prophecy of the scripture given to the humble is "I have called you to live by faith and not by sight", "I will never leave you or forsake you" and "I will lead you to the Father".

All who trust in their own natural earthly wisdom are trapped in Satan's dark realm and become his agent in distorting the truth and believe they are the righteous and are superior in the knowledge of God. The true believer humbles himself and knows they are a repentant sinner and by the grace of God have been delivered from darkness into light by the righteous one Jesus Christ. They are no longer servants of sin but servants of righteousness through faith in Christ. The old is gone and the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5: 17

If any man be in Christ he is a new creation, the old is passed away and behold all things have become new.

No matter how bad it appears to be in this world, your life is hid with Christ in God. The true light now is shining and it shines in our heart through Jesus Christ. "Follow me" says Jesus, "listen to my voice and no man can pluck you out of my Father's hand". We as faithful ambassadors for Christ must still preach the ministry of reconciliation to the lost and broken and encourage the saints to be built up in their most holy faith.

We once lived and increased the brokenness of this world. But now through the power of the Holy Spirit we comfort and do not condemn the sinner, yet warn of the wrath to come. We bring hope to their hearts by being like Jesus to all who trust in some other way. We may not be accepted, we may be rejected, but will always find a place of comfort and revealed truth in the arms of Jesus. The purposes of God will unconsciously be done through you even by giving a cup of cold water to the thirsty. We do live in a broken world that was created by love, but destroyed through the powers that say 'might is right'. This world we live in, is a place where meekness is thought of as weakness and a place where men call evil good.

The first man Adam though made a little lower than the angels in power, was dominated by a fallen angel (Satan) through lies and deceit and rendered himself and all creation under the same judgement as this deceiver, thereby incurring God's wrath. The prophecy of the scripture declared that God would redeem his broken creation and bring it back in right relationship to himself by using the very opposite methods

that Satan used. God knows that broken man is now limited to understand God's character, commands and justice, yet he declares that his redeeming power of love and grace is sufficient to bind up the broken hearted, to make the blind see, to open the ears of the deaf and make the lame walk with him again.

Through the gospel of Jesus Christ, dead men are raised to life into a kingdom that flesh and blood cannot enter, the sinner is granted forgiveness and an inheritance far richer than this world can offer. The victory of this inheritance has already been given to Jesus and we are made co-heirs with Christ in the new creation. Eternal life is the crown given us in Christ and none of us can boast that we earned it because it is a gift freely given. Now out of a heart of gratitude we are servants of righteousness and serve in an unseen kingdom that is more real than the world that we live in now. Serving in Christ's kingdom relieves us from calling this world our home. We look towards a city whose builder and maker is God. We are in this world and we tell of the mystery of the age to come by walking in love, even when it hurts. Loving our enemies, praying for those who spitefully use us and blessing those that curse us and encouraging those that believe to live by faith and be taught of the Lord.

While we are in this world we do not use the weapons of this present evil age, but use the defences born of humility and wisdom, truth, the righteousness of Christ, the gospel of peace and reconciliation, the shield of faith, a mind guarded by the gift of salvation, the sword or words from the Holy Spirit, and always praying for God's guidance and direction.

When we serve Christ in love, joy and peace, this is pleasing unto God and approved by men. We pray in the spirit for unbelievers to hear the voice of Jesus who calls them into a kingdom prepared for them from the foundation of the world. We pray for the believers to come to the knowledge of the truth and seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and repent from dead works and have faith towards God.

John 3: 16

God so loved the world he gave his only begotten and unique Son that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Bill and Sue (servants of Christ)

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