

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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To rightly divide the Word of Truth – We must have the Mind of Christ

Acts 13: 14-47

¹⁴ From Perga they went on to Pisidian Antioch. On the Sabbath they entered the synagogue and sat down. ¹⁵ After the reading from the law and the prophets, the synagogue rulers sent word to them saying, “Brothers, if you have a message of encouragement for the people please speak.”

¹⁶ Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said: “Men of Israel and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me! ¹⁷ The God of the people of Israel chose our fathers; he made the people prosper during their stay in Egypt, with mighty power he led them out of that country, ¹⁸ he endured their conduct (or cared for them) for about forty years in the desert, ¹⁹ he overthrew seven nations in Canaan and gave their land to his people as an inheritance. ²⁰ All this took 450 years. (see Deuteronomy 7: 1). “After this, God gave them judges until the time of Samuel the prophet. ²¹ Then the people asked for a King, and he gave them Saul son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, who ruled forty years. ²² After removing Saul, he made David their King. He testified concerning him: “I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.”

²³ From this man’s descendants God has brought to Israel the Saviour Jesus, as he promised. ²⁴ Before the coming of Jesus John preached repentance and baptism to all the people of Israel. ²⁵ As John (Baptist) was completing his work, he said, “Who do you think I am? I am not that one. No, but he is coming after me, whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. ²⁶ Brothers, children of Abraham, and you God fearing Gentiles, it is to us that this message of salvation has been sent. ²⁷ The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognise Jesus, yet in condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath. ²⁸ Though they found no proper ground for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed. ²⁹ When they had carried out all that was written about him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. ³⁰ But God raised him from the dead. ³¹ And for many days he was seen by those who had travelled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his witnesses to our people. ³² We tell you the good news: What God had promised our fathers ³³ he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second psalm:

“ ‘You are my Son;
today I have become your
Father (or have begotten you).

³⁴ The fact that God raised him from the dead, never to decay, is stated in these words:

“ ‘I will give you the holy and sure blessings
promised to David’ (Isaiah 55: 3)

³⁵ So it is stated elsewhere:

“ ‘You will not let your Holy One
see decay.’ (Psalm 16: 10)

³⁶ For when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep: He was buried with his fathers and his body decayed.

³⁷ But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay. ³⁸ Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. ³⁹ Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses.

⁴⁰ Take care that what the prophets have said does not happen to you:

⁴¹ “ ‘Look you scoffers,
wonder and perish,
for I am going to do something in your days,
that you would never believe,
even if someone told you.’ ” (Habakkuk 1: 5)

⁴² As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue, the people invited them to speak further about these things on the next Sabbath. ⁴³ When the congregation was dismissed, many of the Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas who talked with them and urged them to continue in the grace of God. ⁴⁴ On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. ⁴⁵ When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and talked abusively against what Paul was saying. ⁴⁶ Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: “We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles, ⁴⁷ for this is what the Lord had commanded us:

“ ‘I have made you* a light
for the Gentiles
that you* may bring salvation to
the ends of the earth.’ ”

* The “you” in this scripture is singular and is speaking of Jesus as the Servant of God.

Isaiah 49 - The Servant of the Lord is Jesus

Isaiah 49: 6

⁶ Is it too small a thing for you to be my servant – to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth.

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Dear Friends,

Jesus came as a servant and we as servants are never above our Master. To come as anything but a servant, we are declaring that we are greater than the Lord. To serve is to be a servant of Christ and him alone. To serve anyone or anything rather than Jesus will only lead to sorrow and bondage. To serve any institution other than the Kingdom of God leads into a ditch.

### **The text coming out of chapter 13 of the Book of Acts requires our close attention.**

The preachers or servants of Christ were Paul and Barnabas.

The location was a synagogue in Pisidian Antioch where the law and the prophets were preached every Sabbath.

The people involved were the synagogue rulers and men of Israel and Gentiles who worshipped God. These classes of people were referred to as brothers, children of Abraham or God fearing Gentiles otherwise Jews and devout converts to Judaism.

Paul preached from the old testament and interpreted the scriptures with the authority that God had revealed to him, not in the manner of natural men and their traditions. This scripture he used in this instance was called the Torah or what we refer to as the Old Testament which is made up of the law, prophets and the Psalms (or writings). There was no New Testament written at this point in time.

What must be realised is that the scriptures that were being read in the synagogue were the same scriptures that were read every Sabbath and were the very same scriptures that Jesus used to reveal his purpose and destiny. This is what Jesus had to say concerning scripture.

#### **John 5: 35-40**

Jesus said.....

*<sup>35</sup> John (Baptist) was a lamp that burned and gave light and you chose for a time to enjoy his light. <sup>36</sup> “I have a testimony weightier than that of John (Baptist). For the work that the Father has given me to finish, and which I am doing, testifies that the Father has sent me. <sup>37</sup> And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, <sup>38</sup> nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent. <sup>39</sup> You diligently study (or study diligently) (imperative) the scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the scriptures that testify about me, <sup>40</sup> yet you refuse to come to me to have life.*

Jesus also said in **John 7: 16-19**

*<sup>16</sup> Jesus answered, “My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me. <sup>17</sup> If anyone chooses to do God’s will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. <sup>18</sup> He who speaks on his own does so to gain honour for himself, but he who works for the honour of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him. <sup>19</sup> Has not Moses given you the law? Why are you trying to kill me?*

The purpose of the scripture is to bring you to Jesus so that you may know God and whom he has sent, Jesus Christ, for this is eternal life. (John 17: 3).

Paul’s interpretation of scripture was different to the orthodoxy of law and he used quotations from the prophets and psalms to explain it.

In our opening text of Acts 13, we find that though the law and the prophets were being read every Sabbath, the leaders were not interpreting them correctly. For if they had understood the scriptures correctly they would have realised Jesus was the Messiah sent from God.

Paul encouraged the descendants of Abraham and God fearing Gentiles to look again at the scriptures and discover they were revealing God’s purpose in Christ.

In Acts 13 the same scriptures were read every Sabbath, yet the veil remained over the people’s eyes. The same veil that was over the eyes of the people of Jerusalem and their rulers when they encountered Jesus. In their blindness they fulfilled scripture by crucifying Jesus.

Let us look at **Acts 13: 26-28** from the ESV – English Standard Version, holy bible.

*<sup>26</sup> Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation. <sup>27</sup> For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognise him nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him. <sup>28</sup> And though they found in him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have him executed.*

According to scripture we now know we can fulfil scripture whether by obedience or disobedience by grace or disgrace.

- Adam and Eve fulfilled scripture
- Cain and Abel fulfilled scripture
- Enoch and Noah fulfilled scripture
- Jacob and Esau fulfilled scripture
- Judges and Samuel fulfilled scripture
- Saul and David fulfilled scripture
- John the Baptist and the Pharisees fulfilled scripture
- Judas Iscariot fulfilled scripture
- Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled scripture

The disobedient and the obedient both fulfil scripture, but to what end is their fulfilment? Only the end will tell.

We must ask ourselves are we fulfilling scripture to gain eternal life or to perish. The way we interpret the scriptures is the end result of whether we live by the Spirit or by the flesh.

To follow Jesus is to walk in the light of life, but, to believe that our own works will gain God's righteousness is to walk in our own way which leads to death. We cannot discount that we are created in Christ to do good works.

To be led and taught of the Spirit is to obey Jesus and walk in love to all men and lay down our earthly life and serve Christ Jesus as Lord.

### **Romans 8: 12-14, 17**

*<sup>12</sup> Therefore, brothers we have an obligation – but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. <sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup> Because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>17</sup> ..... if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may share in his glory.*

We are called as sons to be sons of God.

### **1 John 3: 1-3**

*<sup>1</sup> How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God. And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us, is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup> Dear friends, now are we children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when (He) it appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup> Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.*

Jesus is made unto us wisdom and this wisdom of humility in Christ is first of all pure.

### **James 3: 13-18**

*<sup>13</sup> Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in humility that comes from wisdom. <sup>14</sup> But if you harbour bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. <sup>15</sup> Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. <sup>16</sup> For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. <sup>17</sup> But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. <sup>18</sup> Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.*

What is impossible with man is made possible with God.

God in his mercy and saving grace rebirthed us by his Word and Spirit and put to death the old man and began again with a new creation. Just as God started afresh with Noah after the flood, God began a new creation after the cross, this time not with those born of Adam, but with those born of God in Christ a new man. A brand new race of people, a brand new family of God. A new man made in the image and likeness of Christ. Jesus not only gave us the word of promise of the new creation, he also gave us of the Holy Spirit to fulfil his word of truth. If any man be in Christ, he is a brand new creation and by faith he has a bridge into the Kingdom of Christ.

We must strive to enter the straight gate and live the life of Christ whilst we live in the body of flesh. We are now in the family of God through the work of Jesus and Jesus completes this work of his when we enter his Sabbath rest and cease from our own labours.

The dilemma and the stumbling block for all men comes when they interpret the scripture without the mind of Christ. To try to come to the knowledge of God without the mind of Christ is a death sentence to understanding the works of God.

## **2 Philippians 2: 1-4 (ESV)**

*<sup>1</sup> So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy <sup>2</sup> complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also in the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves which is yours in Christ Jesus.*

In other words, learn from Jesus, be taught by Jesus, trust in Jesus that his way is the right way. Forgive and don't take vengeance, let the Lord deal with the adversaries. Love your enemies, encourage the brethren and live as one that hears the voice of Jesus and see the coming Lord's appearing. Faith draws Christ near and the tempters voice says where are the signs of his coming. God says.....Draw near to him and he will draw near to you.

The parables of scripture speak of an absent landlord leaving his vineyard to honest and faithful tenants until he returns. Virgins with their lamps lit. Three travellers on the road, but only one with the heart of Christ. A wayward son welcomed back home. Those that pass from this life either live in paradise or torment.

We in this earthly pilgrimage are invited into God's family even though we are dead in sins and trespasses. The Saviour doesn't call us when we are perfect, he calls us in our worst state and then he treats us with loving kindness and discards our dirty rags and presents us as holy, blood washed sons of God in the presence of his glory. Though our sins as scarlet be, we shall be white as snow.

Only God through Jesus and the Holy Spirit can create this new family. Adam through failure of disobedience condemned the family of God to sin and death. Noah though saved by the ark above the torrential waters, soon reverted to the adamic ways. Abraham gained promises from God and through the obedience of faith, foretold that his family of faith would embrace not only his descendants but the whole world. Yet, Abraham still carried the flaws of Adam's transgression. From his descendants would come the Saviour of the world through David's family, yet David missed the mark. Moses received the law which was revealed to bring us to Christ, because of sin this law could bring nothing to perfection. The sacrifices and rituals of worship and the law were to be obeyed until the Saviour came, but this law could not annul the promise made to the seed which is Christ. Only in

Christ is love perfected and able to cast out all fear. Moses failed to enter the promised land through the flaws of sin, but Jesus entered into heaven itself.

- Even though Adam had a family
- Even though Noah had a family
- Even though Abraham had a family
- Even though Moses had a family
- Even though David had a family

None of these families could do away with sin. Even though faith in ritualistic sacrifices and laws of imposition, these could not deal with the sin nature, but could only cover over the sins produced by the sin nature and the conscience remained in guilt. Every commandment or sacrifice under the law was given to stem the flow and ravages of sin until Christ came as the Lamb of God. It is only the Lamb of God that can take away the sin of the world. If we do not put our faith in Christ, our sin remains.

When Jesus the true Son of God came to save mankind and defeat the devil and destroy his works, the rulers and interpreters of God's words and intentions killed the Redeemer just like their ancestors had killed the prophets.

They by their own blindness did not seek God's help but relied on their own wisdom and stayed in the deception of the devil. The whole of Adam's family remain in the darkened mind to this day, and they bring forth the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. The family that relies on the adamic nature and the covenants that only deal with the outward sins, does not belong to the family of Christ. *But if you are led by the Spirit you are not under the law.* **Galatians 5: 18.**

There are two families in the earth today. One is the adamic man who is ruled by the serpent. The other is the new man who is ruled by the Lord from heaven and his Holy Spirit.

In the period from Adam to Jesus, God the Father intervened at various stages and in various ways to bring about his purposes. These scriptures were written down to warn those on whom the end of the ages has come, not to follow the example of the forefathers, but to always be alert. *If anyone thinks they stand, take heed lest he fall.* (I Corinthians 10:12). Every generation is confronted with the same temptations. You are either of the generation that identifies with Adam or the one that identifies with Jesus and the new creation. One family is of the earth and they speak of earthly things, the other family is from heaven and stores up in their heart things from heaven where rust and moth do not damage or corrode.

The adamic man will be defined by his own works of his own righteousness and be bound by obedience to rituals, outward appearances, natural judgement, fear of death and the law. If this is what defines you, you abide in death. Only those defined by Christ live in eternal life. It is impossible to mix the two, a double-minded man receives nothing from the Lord. Those that wish to live by the law to please God and establish their own righteousness cannot avoid the second death.

Returning to the text of **Acts 13: 38-41**

<sup>38</sup> *Therefore my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. <sup>39</sup> Through him, everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses. <sup>40</sup> Take care that what the prophets have said does not happen to you: <sup>41</sup> Look you scoffers, wonder and perish, for I am going to do something in your days that you would never believe, even if someone told you.*



There are some things the law of Moses could not justify the people from and those transgressions lead to death. Also there was no law from Adam to Moses yet the people still died. What you are defined by in the last days or the age that is passing away is determined by your interpretation of scripture. If you are defined by the adamic nature you will perish and if you are defined by the law you will die and remain in your sin. If you are defined by Christ and his new creation you will live in eternal life and sin and death will not have dominion over you.

Let us look at John the Baptist and how he defined the scribes and the Pharisees that came to his baptism. John the Baptist interpreted his message from God through the words of Isaiah the prophet. His interpretation was right and he proclaimed the new age of the kingdom of Heaven was near. (Isaiah 40: 1-5).

### **Matthew 3: 7-12**

*<sup>7</sup> But when he saw the Pharisees and the Sadducees coming to where he was baptising, he said to them, “you brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup> And do not think you can say to yourselves. We have Abraham as our father! I tell you that out of these stones, God can raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup> The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup> I baptise you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>12</sup> His 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.*

Dear reader, water baptism is unto repentance and if you don't bring forth good fruit your water baptism means nothing. The axe was laid to the root of the trees that could not produce good fruit. Trusting in the law, your good works and ritualistic worship cannot produce good fruit. Trusting in being a son of Abraham does not bring the fruit God requires. God can make sons of Abraham out of stones. The brood of vipers were the offspring of Adam, Eve and Cain who produced fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Jesus challenged the chief priests and the elders in regard to true authority with the question “was John's baptism from heaven or from men”? John's baptism came from heaven the same place from which Jesus received his authority. Isaiah received from God in heaven, John the Baptist received from Isaiah, Jesus received from John the Baptist and Jesus received his authority from God in heaven.

Jesus said after a long discourse to the teachers of the law and the Pharisees. **Matthew 23: 33** “*You snakes! You brood of vipers; how will you escape being condemned to hell.*”

Both Jesus and John the Baptist were warning of wrath and God's judgement on all those who by their own authority read and misinterpret the scriptures through their own adamic mind. Both Jesus and John the Baptist were placing these rulers and teachers of the law as of the same generation of instructors that taught our first parents. The children of Adam became subject to the nature of Satan even though they did not transgress or disobey God in the same way as Adam. Though God started to teach the brothers Cain and Abel through sacrifice, Cain succumbed to temptation from Satan and did evil and murdered his brother. God was patient with Adam's race and kept a remnant through Seth, Enoch and Eber etc., but still sin and death continued right up until Noah. God was grieved that he made man because his nature was continually evil.

Though God destroyed all flesh in the flood and saved Noah with seven other souls, the scourge of sin remained. Every move of God from Noah until Christ was to stem the rising tide of sin and death instigated by Satan and interfering demons.

When Christ came he went far beyond Moses, Abraham and Noah and dealt the final axe blow to the adamic nature. No longer was God dealing with men according to the symptoms of sin but with sin itself. No longer would the new man in Christ be of the brood of vipers, but would belong to the pure family of Christ. He gave each individual the right to become a child of God. *If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.* **1 John 1: 8.**

So, no longer do we live to the sinful nature but we live through Christ and his heavenly spiritual nature by faith.

Jesus became the last Adam that died and was crucified at Calvary, never to live again. Christ was raised the new man, the Lord from heaven and those that are born of him are no longer subject to weak and beggarly elements of the world that are subject to ritual laws and will worship for their righteousness before God. The new born man is subject to the faith in Christ and relies not on the old covenant requirements but participates in a new covenant ratified in the blood of Jesus Christ – who was made sin that we might be made the righteousness of God in Christ.

This righteousness which we receive by faith is not ours by our own merits, but by the works of our Lord who loved us and died for us. This love of Christ is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit reveals Jesus as the true interpretation of scripture all the peripheral things drop off as filthy grave clothes that only bring a stench to the life in Christ. Yes, in Christ we live - only in Christ.

The law could not make us perfect and only in Christ is perfection achieved and it cannot be gained by our own efforts and is only accomplished when we rightly divide the word of truth and walk in the light of his lamp by faith.

If we walk in any way that is not birthed from the mind of Christ we do not walk in perfected love. Death and its tentacles is enticing us to follow its teachings. This proves we have not yet attained to what we were apprehended for, so we need the gift of repentance and the Holy Spirit to lead us back to the one who is higher than I. His strength is made perfect in our weakness by grace and grace alone. We must look to Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith. We thank God for his grace who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ.

Christ the greater one lives in me now and I need not trust in the flesh. Straight is the gate and narrow is the path that leads from what we can see with our natural eyes into Christ's kingdom. Few that be find this bridge, this pathway to life, but those that do find it, can claim no merit of themselves but are found in nature like Jesus. To be like Jesus is to live in all humility of wisdom and obedience to the truth, living by faith and not by sight we then partake of a kingdom prepared for us before the foundation of the world. Jesus trod this road for he saw the joy set before him of bringing many sons into glory.

Jesus became the door to God's kingdom and eternal life.

This is the attitude and the mindset that we must maintain in our earthly pilgrimage that if anything is revealed to us in scripture it is to humble us in such a manner that we know we are not worthy to call that glory our own, it is a glory that belongs to Christ for freeing all those that are bound in the adamic nature of sin and death. It is revealed to us that every human being born into this earth through water and blood has a right to enter the glorious kingdom of Christ.

Our heartfelt prayer is that all might enter the freedom whereby Christ sets men free.

### **A postscript to this message**

The Apostle Paul who according to what is written in the new testament was a disciple of the teacher Gamaliel.

Paul was so influenced by false interpretations of the scripture that he counted himself as a God taught Pharisee, a righteous man. So righteous according to the law blameless. Did this teaching, this interpretation of the scripture make Paul a minister of truth? The answer to this question must be no! Paul prided himself in going after anyone who trusted in Jesus. He had them arrested, beaten, imprisoned and killed. Did his understanding of scripture fill him with the love of God? No! It was not until he was apprehended by Christ that he was transformed. Paul realised he had been called from his mother's womb or his birth, but he had lived in religious rebellion until he found Christ lived in his heart.

This is the same question we must ask ourselves. In all honesty is our interpretation of scripture so true that it overwhelms us with love for all men and causes us with desire to seek Christ and his kingdom with all our heart and mind? Do we live a Christian life just to get into heaven by the skin of our teeth and escape the wrath to come? Or, do we live a life of prayer for all those bound by fear and living in sin because they are trapped by their own evil desires and are captives of the devil. Father grant us the mercy that overcomes judgement and allow us to proclaim Jesus as Lord and Saviour the one who can open the flood gates to glory.

Dear Jesus our prayer is for the broken and the lost, may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. May we truly know that the prince of this world is cast out and may Jesus reign in glory in his kingdom within the hearts of repentant sinners who put no trust in their own understanding, but put their full trust in Jesus.

*Jesus,  
the same yesterday, today and forever.*

The character of the seed is the character of the fruit. He is the tree of life. The character of the seed which is Christ will be in the fruit produced on the tree. A good tree produces good fruit and a bad tree produces bad fruit.

### **Proverbs 16: 4**

*The Lord works out everything for his own end – even the wicked for a day of disaster.*

Bill and Sue (servants of Christ)

If you would like to make a reply or contact us, please email [info@churchbuiltoflivingstones.com](mailto:info@churchbuiltoflivingstones.com)