

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.

**1 Corinthians 12: 3**

*Therefore, I tell you that NO ONE speaking by the SPIRIT  
OF GOD says "Jesus be cursed", and NO ONE can say  
"JESUS IS LORD", except by the HOLY SPIRIT.*

Dear friends,

Today, many in fact use the precious name of Jesus Christ as a curse word in their everyday conversations without hesitation, and are ignorant of the harm they bring upon their being. There are grave consequences for this misdemeanour of the heart which is called blasphemy. All can be forgiven if they confess it as a sin against God. Most people do not recognise this as a sin of unbelief and wilfully go through life without fear of almighty God, it is only the Holy Spirit that can bring conviction to the world of any lawlessness against the truth. Only the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ the Lord can take away the sin of the world.

**John 16: 7-15**

*<sup>7</sup> But I tell you the truth: it is for your good that I am going away, unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup> When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt (or expose the guilt of the world) in regard to sin and righteousness and judgement: <sup>9</sup> In regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup> in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; <sup>11</sup> and in regard to judgement, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. <sup>12</sup> I have more to say to you, more than you can now bear. <sup>13</sup> But when he, the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. <sup>14</sup> He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. <sup>15</sup> All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.*

There is much to glean from this small portion of scripture of which we will only brush the surface of its depth. We must allow the truth of the mighty working power of the triune God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit to be our guide into all truth. Jesus is speaking of his return to the Father and the knowledge of this journey through the way of the cross was beyond the disciple's comprehension, which would only be revealed to them in the future by the Holy Spirit. Many things can be discussed now by modern day disciples of Christ as we humble ourselves under the Father's mighty hand and allow the Holy Spirit to teach us the truth that is in Jesus.

The greatest sin in this world is unbelief in Jesus and his accomplishments on our behalf regarding our salvation, sanctification and redemption. Jesus has accomplished our freedom from guilt and punishment before a Father God who requires justice for every broken commandment. How can we know this is true and not just a myth or a "fairy tale"?

The teaching of the Holy Spirit tells our heart that Jesus was the Christ who was crucified upon a cross at Calvary and died and on the third day rose from the grave and ascended into heaven to the Father's right hand. The punishment or wages of sin is death and the Holy Spirit teaches that death could not hold the Holy One. Now by grace we are saved through faith when we believe that Christ died and was raised out from among the dead. By faith those who believe are raised with Christ into the kingdom of God. This is the righteousness imputed to us in Christ and in Christ alone. The believing sinner is now granted eternal salvation through the gracious works of Jesus who took the penalty of death in his own body upon the cross. He took our judgement in his own body and bore the penalty of death in agony and pain for our sins and

transgressions upon the cross. The Holy Spirit declares that through the resurrection out from among the dead that Jesus entered into eternity and grants this gift to all who follow him in the regeneration.

This is the magnitude of grace which bestows the gift of eternal salvation to those who believe and abide in Christ. These teachings could not be held and maintained as truth until Christ rose from the dead and ascended to the right hand of God the Father. After Jesus' sacrifice and acceptance in the heavenlies, salvation from sins and transgressions for everyman was accomplished. God's justice was appeased and the gift of the Holy Spirit was sent into the world to achieve the redemption of all creation and all that the old serpent, the deceiver – Satan had corrupted. The wonder working power of God's kingdom could now operate in sinful, weak and broken men of clay. The judgement of Satan's control over mankind was now complete and the keys of hell and death are now in the Fathers hands.

Though mankind still is inveigled by Satan's deceptions and false promises, the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ and God's kingdom can deliver from death and corruption all those who believe and are led and guided by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said; "My sheep will hear my voice and a stranger they will not follow".

Those that follow the stranger's voice abide under the condemnation and the judgement imposed on Satan, which is eternal judgement away from the presence of God.

Those that follow Jesus will abide eternally in the presence of God, through the resurrection power of Jesus Christ. The resurrection is a person, Jesus said; "I am the resurrection and the life".

To blaspheme the name of Jesus is a telling sign that a person abides in the condemnation of the devil and has not been taught by the heavenly powers of God that Jesus is Lord. This sin can be forgiven if one is convicted of this sin and error and confesses it before God. To keep refusing the power and conviction of the Holy Spirit's teaching and to blaspheme the Holy Spirit, leaves nowhere else to go to receive the knowledge of the truth.

This teaching is exemplified in the following verses of scripture.

#### **Luke 12: 1-12**

*<sup>1</sup> Meanwhile, when a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so that they were trampling on one another, Jesus began to speak first to his disciples saying: "Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. <sup>2</sup> There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will be made known. <sup>3</sup> What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs. <sup>4</sup> I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. <sup>5</sup> But I will show you whom you should fear. Fear him who, after killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him. <sup>6</sup> Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. <sup>7</sup> Indeed, the very hairs of your head are numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. <sup>8</sup> "I tell you, whoever acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man will also acknowledge him before the angels of God. <sup>9</sup> But he who disowns me before men will be disowned before the angels of God. <sup>10</sup> And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. <sup>11</sup> "When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, <sup>12</sup> for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say."*

The lessons that the Holy Spirit gives as our guide and what he teaches will never deny the Lordship and teachings of Christ. The early disciples of Jesus who declared Jesus was Lord, were not just glibly using that statement as a cliché. They were living in a period of time where Caesar worship was predominant. The cult of "Mithras" or Caesar worship that taught and embraced empirical dominance was prevalent and strong. The Roman military which was feared by the populace worshipped Mithras in underground caverns in every

city and country they conquered. To defy the Roman gods of power was a death sentence. The Pharisees and the Sadducees who were the most dominant of the Jewish leaders, both embraced and sought favour with the empirical rulers. Hence the statement of prophecy of Caiaphas who was high priest that year.

Let us look at this event in the gospel of John which occurred immediately after the raising of Lazarus from the tomb. This was a powerful witness that Jesus was operating in, an authority the world had never known. Many try to duplicate this authority and fail, then resort to carnal methods of power such as the world of institution and mammon.

### **John 11: 45-53**

*<sup>45</sup> Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in him. <sup>46</sup> But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. <sup>47</sup> Then the Chief Priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin. "What are we accomplishing?" they asked. Here is this man performing many miraculous signs. <sup>48</sup> If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our place (temple) and our nation. <sup>49</sup> Then one of them named Caiaphas, who was High Priest that year, spoke up, "You know nothing at all! <sup>50</sup> You do not realise that it is better for you that one man dies for the people than for the whole nation to perish." <sup>51</sup> He did not say this on his own, but as High Priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation. <sup>52</sup> And not only for the nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one. <sup>53</sup> So from that day they plotted to take his life.*

These religious leaders were in such fear of losing their dominance and religious authority that they were willing to kill Jesus the Son of God, who had come to save them. These men were blinded by Satan and were so captivated by the enemy that what was concealed in their hearts was now going to be proclaimed from the rooftops. When we are challenged by the truth of scripture and confronted by the living logos which is the word of God, it comes down to a more personal level. This is not a corporate response, but it is a personal choice that every person must make. We are not without counsel on these occasions of choice, but are encouraged by scripture and the Holy Spirit. If we choose the world, we have only a fearful looking forward to judgement from God our Father, for the destruction of the flesh.

Through the obedience of faith this disciplining releases us into the liberty of the Son of his love. We must not be like Lot's wife who looked back and hankered for the past world. Judgement must begin in the house that God is building so it may be without spot or wrinkle. Despise not the discipline of the Lord and do not go back to trusting the weak and beggarly elements of the world. These cannot bring the life of God to the believer, only the Lamb of God can take away the sin and the desires of the world and give life abundantly. So look unto Jesus the author and finisher of your faith and he will appear to you and deliver you from all unrighteousness, even while you are in the body of this death. We are forever challenged and placed in real life reality on this earth of whether Jesus is Lord or whether we belong to the world. We are still not tempted to the point of shedding of our own blood.

Do not be deceived, our judgements of what is the world is not what God the Father calls the world. The religious leaders in Jesus' day were anti-Christ and believed they were the righteous ones. But the truth was openly declared that what their hearts contained was a murderous intention against the Righteous One. They believed temple building, the law and sacrifices, along with rituals of worship, holy days and Sabbath adherences, along with superiority over inferiority was righteousness before God. When confronted by the open declaration that the righteousness before God was not by works, but by faith in Jesus Christ, their so called faith was moribund.

A man born blind was healed by Jesus and thrown out of the synagogue by the Pharisees who claimed Jesus was a sinner. **John 9: 24-41 (Spiritual blindness).**

*<sup>24</sup> A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God," they said. "We know this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup> He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" <sup>26</sup> Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup> He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?" <sup>28</sup> Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! <sup>29</sup> We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup> The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will. <sup>32</sup> Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. <sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." <sup>34</sup> To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out. <sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" <sup>36</sup> "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him." <sup>37</sup> Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you." <sup>38</sup> Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said,<sup>[a]</sup> "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind." <sup>40</sup> Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?" <sup>41</sup> Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.*

Is this the same problem with the religious elite today? Do the leaders that rule proclaim the same gospel that the early believers preached or do they preach another gospel that tickles the ears of the hearers? Do they build walls of division or tear down the walls that separate and invite the blind, the lame and the halt to participate in God's kingdom of love, joy and peace?

The gospel is both exclusive and inclusive.

The gospel is exclusive to the extent that it challenges and exposes the individual to their rebellion and sin. Thereby they themselves are responsible for accepting the free gift of salvation through Christ. The individual believer is now responsible for working out their own salvation with fear and trembling. Their response to the gracious gift of God the Father is to make Jesus Christ Lord of their life. They are to die to the world and refuse all the lies and temptations of the devil. They must leave the broad road that leads to destruction and strive to enter the straight gate and follow the narrow path that leads to life. No Christian is exempt from this calling and responsibility, they cannot rely on a pastor or pope, but must seek Jesus with all their heart, mind and soul.

Even though the way is narrow we are not without a Counsellor and a comforter. The comforter is the Holy Spirit who strengthens us in the inner man and maintains and upholds our belief in Jesus as the Way, the Truth and the Life. This is the exclusiveness of the gospel of Jesus Christ that every believer is responsible to adhere to and then to walk in the kingdom of God and abide in its realities while they live in this vessel of clay. They are taught of the Lord and learn how to overcome the world and the Devil's wiles through faith and are shielded by putting on the armour of God. No man can walk your walk while you live in the flesh. You as an individual are responsible for how you respond to Jesus as Lord. This is the exclusiveness of the gospel.

The inclusiveness of the gospel of Jesus Christ is that this message of hope and salvation is open to every man. No man or woman or child is excluded from the offer of freedom and forgiveness before God. There are no works, no requirements needed to partake of God's righteous judgement upon their soul except to believe. The only requirement is faith in Jesus Christ. This faith comes to any individual who hears the word of Christ and believes. Whom the Son sets free is free indeed. When any leader or ruler stands in the holy

place reserved for Jesus, they cast a dark shadow on your soul and prevent the true light from setting you free.

### **John 3: 16-21**

<sup>16</sup> *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. <sup>19</sup> This is the verdict: light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.”*

Yes, the only exclusiveness in the gospel of Christ is to walk wholly before God in the light of life through hearing and hearing the word of Christ. Our walk as believers is to hear then preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and the kingdom of God as witnesses without fear or favour, proclaiming Jesus Christ is Lord. To shrink away from the truth of Jesus as Lord and his kingdom is the result of misguided teaching and the fear of man. The traditions of men and the rebuilding of things Jesus destroyed and nailed to the tree at Calvary bring the fear of man and the diminishing of the truth that Jesus Christ is Lord of heaven and earth. Unbelief nullifies the working power of the Holy Spirit in the believer’s life. The currency of Christ’s kingdom does not come through “Mithras” and trust in mammon, but comes through the power of love. This love is exemplified and powered through the act of mercy which fills our hearts and minds with forgiveness towards blinded sinners. They are just like we were before grace came upon us like a cloud of joy, bringing the presence of Jesus and the knowledge of the glory of God.

For the early Christians, to say that Jesus was Lord, was to say that Jesus was greater than Caesar, and any other ruling power. For a humble hearted believer with not much education except a true faith in Jesus, this could result in being fed to the lions in the Colosseum or being expelled from the synagogue and vilified, even being tortured resulting in a slow agonising death.

We ask this question, is the name of Jesus the Lord held as majestically in Christian circles today as it was in the past or is it used as a formula to be integrated with the world and a reliance and trust in the deceitfulness of riches? Do the so-called rulers of assembled believers operate as superiors and teach the “yeast of the Pharisees”?

**Matthew 23: 13** *“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of God in men’s faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.”*

Faith in the name of Jesus as Lord is a forward and downward projection of becoming less reliant on the ambitions of the world. The disciple of Christ forsakes all religious and secular arena’s and becomes totally committed to the gospel of Jesus Christ and lives in the kingdom of God now. The seeker now serves Christ in love, joy and peace and is crucified to the world, and this world is crucified to them along with its attractions and falsehoods.

Jesus Christ made Lord in the hearts and minds of men, women and children is a work of God. This is accomplished through the Holy Spirit and the sinner’s obedience to the gospel of Christ and the kingdom of God. The true believer forsakes the world of sectarianism and lives and breathes in the presence of God as a son becoming a son.

“Christ in us the hope of glory”.

### **Bill and Sue**

(Servants and friends of Christ and his body, the new Jerusalem that comes out of heaven from God).