

June 2022

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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## June 2022 Message

### What does it mean to be in Christ?

#### **Ephesians 1: 3-14**

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. <sup>4</sup> For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, <sup>9</sup> he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, <sup>10</sup> to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfilment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. <sup>11</sup> In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, <sup>12</sup> in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

Dear Friends,

Paul along with the apostle John were both faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ and their lives testified to their unflinching belief that Jesus was the Christ – sent by God to reconcile us back to himself. They suffered greatly for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

We in this modern world have lost the importance that both these dear brothers were imprisoned for their faith in Christ and their message ran diametrically opposed to the religious orthodoxy of their time. The book of Ephesians was written to the faithful believers in Christ Jesus (Eph. 1: 2) from a prison in Rome and was delivered by Tychicus a beloved brother and faithful minister (Eph. 6: 21).

Paul was frank in his assessment that it was Jesus and Jesus alone that could break every chain that held the heart in bondage from the salvation and redemption that is in Christ.

His message of Christ crucified to the generation in which he lived is as relevant to the generation that is held captive in the sinful nature this very day.

Paul said in **1 Corinthians 1: 23-24**

*<sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God.*

The question must be asked of ourselves in this modern generation. Are we committed to Jesus Christ for our power and wisdom or are we seeking someone or something else?

What is the message that we are hearing? – is it the message of trust in Jesus alone, by grace alone through faith alone?

This faith that comes from God, comes to our heart and mind when we hear the word of Christ. This is the faith that pleases God the Father, because he looks upon the heart and knows then that our hearts have been circumcised from the old covenants and laws that could not bring us to eternal life.

Faith in Jesus is the precious seed planted in our hearts and nurtured by the Holy Spirit that magnifies the truth of the “new birth” bringing us into a “new creation” that was granted us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We have no need of any man to teach us, because everyone will be taught of the Lord. To say that Jesus Christ is Lord and not obey his commandments is an oxymoron. When Jesus paid the price for the sin of the old nature at Calvary, he ransomed our souls from the dominion of death.

The cross of Christ that Paul preached and did not deviate from was that Christ took our sins to the cross in his own body and suffered and died alone; not for his own sins, but for our sin. The cross has a two-fold message that though Christ died – his body did not see corruption and the grave could not hold him and he rose triumphant and declared that this eternal life that is in Christ Jesus would be inherited by all who believe in him.

Jesus said before he went to the cross, *“my sheep hear my voice and a stranger they will not follow”*.

There are many “strangers” in the world and Satan can appear as an angel of light.

Many seek their own and love the praises of men and revert to *“the weak and beggarly elements of the world”* as a substitute for the gospel of Christ.

The gospel of Christ and his cross is watered down to such a degree today, least they should suffer persecution for Christ’s sake.

The message of “blessing and riches” overshadows the truth that there is a cost to following Jesus Christ. Thankfully, God the Father and Jesus allowed the Holy Spirit – after the ascension of Jesus – into the earth upon all flesh to lead and guide us into the truth. The Holy Spirit is named as a comforting paraclete. One that is our advocate that comforts us in all our afflictions and causes us to remember Jesus Christ as Lord in times of trouble. In fact, the Holy Spirit is the Lord. The Spirit of God is the same spirit that taught the holy prophets in times past. The spirit that was in the prophets of old was the one who taught that Christ the “holy One” sent from God would suffer to bring forth the message of truth. Those that do not have the Spirit of Christ are none of his.

We as believers in Christ are taught by the “Lord the Holy Spirit” that we will suffer for righteousness sake and for the gospel of Christ. This suffering is not provoking one another, not being superior over another’s faith, not being religious in appearance, not being ‘holier than thou’, not obeying religious orthodoxy rules, nor having a martyr complex. This suffering occurs by not being conformed to this world and its promises, but living by faith in Christ and being conformed to the image of God’s Son. Jesus said: *A servant is not above his master and if they persecuted me they will persecute you also.* **John 15: 20.**

We are encouraged by the Lordship of the Holy Spirit to lay down our old life and take up the new life which is in Christ. Everything in this new life is by faith in Christ. This is not living in the rules and dictates of men, yet it is in obedience to every rule and dictate of naturally minded men. This seems like a contradiction, but it is not so.

To lay down your life is the only way we will find true life. This is why Jesus said; *“I am the way, the truth and the life”*. To lay down our life daily is the exhortation of Paul. Jesus said *“Strive to enter in at the straight gate and walk the narrow path that leads to life”*. The straight gate is the confines and truth of Jesus and the narrow path is the way that Jesus Christ faced his destiny at the hands of evil men and every false usurping satanic spiritual force that lead to death.

What appeared to be the greatest victory by the power of evil over good, was extinguished by the power of the cross and resurrection. Jesus submitted to all authorities and powers that were arrayed against God and his purposes using methods and powers the world does not abide by. These powers were truth, meekness, obedience, humility of wisdom, forgiveness and love. The powers of the world, the flesh and the devil are exposed and demonstrated as moribund and come out of the old sinful nature. These are adequately revealed and described in the bible and all these evils proceed from the uncircumcised heart. Jesus said; *“out of the heart come evil thoughts, adulteries and fornications”* and all manner of evils.

The power of the gospel and the truth of eternal life are all revealed in the person and life of Jesus Christ and are then manifest through the regenerated hearts of men by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Now to know if you are in Christ and obedient to God’s will, you will be compelled to walk in love, humility, meekness, forgiveness and you will refuse the temptations and deceptions of men who lie in wait to deceive. They will try to deceive you into believing that their teachings of rituals, sacraments and elementary principles of the world will save you. These things will not save nor bring peace, joy and liberty in Christ. They will only bind and eventually steal, kill and destroy. For freedom Christ sets us free, not to do our own will, but to do the will of God.

This is the way Jesus faced his greatest trial at the cross. His trial was to remain obedient to the Father’s will in the darkest hour. When it seemed that God had deserted him, he still did not follow the temptation offered him, this temptation was to do his own will and not his Father’s will. It was love that caused and motivated Jesus – a love this world knows nothing of. The love that filled the

heart of Jesus, was the love of God for God. This is true love. This love endures every temptation and every thought that tries to make us leave the narrow path. This love that Jesus demonstrated was the true love of God. He submitted to every power both physical and spiritual to demonstrate and show they were impotent to the power of God's love. All these "principalities and powers" were imposters and de-facto rulers. The only true power is singular and sovereign and is in God and God alone. God the Father invested this power in Jesus and granted those that believed the message of the cross that they would not perish but have eternal life.

In this modern world of bible interpretation, unjust men are exchanging the message of the kingdom of God for the teachings of men and traditions of the church as a substitute for life.

The message of the new covenant is a message of freedom in Christ which makes us a servant of all. Superiority over inferiority is a by-word in the kingdom of God and has no place in a Christian's life. We are not called to live in superiority but to live in humility. If any man has a gift, the gift does not come from him, it comes from God.

How can a "work of God" claim credit for the work of God?

In other words, how can we who are created by God, claim superiority over any other person created in God's image, then lord it over their faith in Christ. We are to owe no man anything but to love them. Each man is a "work of God" created to show forth the works of God, for his glory. We must allow Jesus through the Holy Spirit all sovereignty and lordship over all creation including ourselves and all other men. We must love all men even our enemies for they will all stand in judgement before Christ. Our calling is to pray for all men everywhere, especially the household of faith.

This is the work of God that we believe in him and who he has sent. We are to humble ourselves under God's mighty hand and take no credit for our own righteousness and give the honour and praise to Jesus Christ who is our righteousness before God. We are nothing in ourselves, but we are everything before God when we live in obedient faith, in Christ.

To lay down our life on a daily basis as the scripture says is to face each day with trust in Jesus as Sovereign Lord. We are to go about our work and play with joy in our heart knowing that *"God will supply our every need according to his riches of glory in Christ Jesus"*. **Philippians 4: 19**. Many people misinterpret this scripture to gain material needs. This is not the true intent of this scripture, although God will always meet our material natural needs if we seek first the kingdom of God. The answer to every need is not material needs but in the need for every person born to have Christ abide in their heart. The need of everyman is to know the truth of the spiritual realm which cannot be seen but can only be entered by trust in what God has promised in Christ. To enter this spiritual realm without trust in Christ is dangerous and will only end badly. To live in the truth and liberty of Christ is not believing that the evidence of God is in outward signs and benefits, though these may come. The true spiritual blessings come when we live by faith and not by sight. Jesus said to Thomas: *Because you have seen me, you have believed, blessed are those who have not seen but believed.* **John 15: 29**.

What are the riches of glory that supply our every spiritual need?

Paul describes the message that he preached as a servant of Christ brought him suffering and persecution, but he was under commission and compelled by God to disclose the mystery that had been hidden for ages and generations. God has chosen the preaching of Christ to bring about his purposes.

What Paul was disclosing was that God was including everyman in his glorious plan if they repented and had faith in Jesus Christ. This message that the Gentiles were included in the Almighty's plan caused anguish and strife to those that proclaimed superiority through the knowledge of the law and teachings of Moses. The Jews could rightly feel aggrieved because up until then, they had believed that they were God's chosen and had the law and the commandments which bore witness to what was received from God on Mount Sinai and this was their divine inheritance. They did not see or understand the prophet's writings that One greater than Moses would come and deliver all from bondage, sin and death and give eternal life.

To hear they had to bow to the name of Jesus sounded like blasphemy to them.

But God was doing a new thing, because the law made nothing perfect and it could not bring life. The "world" that Paul and John were confronted with was a "world" where devout and religious people gave top priority to God's law even though they were unable to keep that law. That "world" of law keeping now was crucified with Christ and in the resurrection we are raised with Christ into the "law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus".

The glorious riches of this mystery is Christ in you the hope of glory. We are not only raised with Christ but Christ lives in our heart. We are united with Christ. We now share in the hope of Christ's glory.

Through the law we die to the law by our faith in Christ thereby we fulfil the law.

To live is Christ and to die is gain.

*"The life I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and died for me"* was Paul's testimony. This can and must be our testimony also.

### **Colossians 1: 24-29**

*<sup>24</sup> Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. <sup>25</sup> I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— <sup>26</sup> the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. <sup>27</sup> To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. <sup>28</sup> We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. <sup>29</sup> To this end I labour, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.*

The true teacher does not preach his own ideas and conditions but teaches that Christ and Christ alone is your Lord and Jesus will teach you all things through the Holy Spirit.

Why preach anything but Christ and the truth of Christ's word abiding in a grateful heart of obedience?

Many will promote the gifts of God and not let the love of God be their life. Humility, meekness and gentleness are forsaken as a manifest truth and that Christ abides in our heart. They will promote their gifts as evidence they belong to God and are of God, yet, they abide in the double mind. They build their own kingdoms and call it church but greed, covetousness, rituals, superiority and fear of death are the results. What they should fear more than anything is short-term gain at the expense of eternal life. We are not to fear those that can kill the body but to fear him who can destroy both body and soul in hell. We can covet the best gifts but only to glorify God and build up the kingdom of Christ which is his body.

Without love, all gifts are outside the kingdom of God.

### **1 Corinthians 13: 1-3**

*<sup>1</sup> If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to hardship that I may boast, but have not love, I gain nothing.*

It was love that nailed Christ to the tree to take the curse that rightly belonged to us.

How can one repay that debt?

It is impossible to pay this debt, so we must give whole-hearted gratitude to God the Father and to love him with all our heart, soul and mind and then to love our neighbour no matter how they treat us. On this hangs all the law and the prophets, the law and the prophets are fulfilled in Christ and his love.

The mystery of Christ is hidden beyond the veil of men's minds by the subtlety and cunning of the master of deception. The message of "many ways" to God and the overpowering trust in knowledge against God's wisdom allows the sciences and natural thinking to smother the fear of God - which is the beginning of wisdom.

### **1 Corinthians 1: 30**

*It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.*

Natural and psychological knowledge produce cures that may have a temporal effect, yet the whole world is more and more traumatised and groaning under more mental stress and strain. The discoveries of science may extend natural life, but cannot prevent death or bring life everlasting.

Religious faith healers major on physical healing as their evidence that God is with them, but the true healing is the evidence a man, woman or child is reconciled to God when Christ lives within their heart.

### **John 11: 25**

*<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her; "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies, <sup>26</sup> and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"*

This belief that is granted us in Christ is a belief that God has given to us through his word and Spirit and to take this belief and lord it over another man's faith is ungodly. We must proclaim Christ crucified and risen and let God through the power of the Holy Spirit convert sinner's souls, after which we can encourage one another in this most holy faith and allow God the Holy Spirit to be their teacher and guide.

The truth of this statement is revealed in scripture by the parable of the rich man and the poor man, that even if somebody went back from the dead to tell the truth they still would not believe. This is a declaration of the hardness of the human natural heart or inner consciousness. Even further proof of the evilness that can be produced by Satan through the unbelieving heart is wrought in the inner being of the superior thinking of religious men. After Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead, the ruling elite set about to kill both Jesus and Lazarus.

There is a two-fold lesson for us here.

- Firstly, to believe Jesus has the power to raise the dead to life again;
- Secondly not to kill off and destroy the works that God has ordained through our unbelief.

May God bless you in your  
going in and going out.  
He will never leave you  
or forsake you.

Nothing needs to be seen in signs and wonders, because in the new covenant Christ can be known.  
This is eternal life and when we see him we will be like him.

Bill and Sue (servants of Christ)

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