

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.

In these unstable and troubled times.

Dear friends,

This is not a time to draw back and stop seeking the Lord. This is the time to bolster our faith and believe the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ and his kingdom of righteousness or as some say a kingdom of right standing with God. The plan and purpose of God which was fulfilled in Christ was that the sinner and the transgressor would be declared righteous before God's throne of grace. This throne was a seat of mercy. We have no righteousness of our own works, but when we believe and act in the imputed righteousness of Christ and not of our own works, the sinner is granted peace with God. Access is granted into God's kingdom through the new birth which is the beginning of the new creation. But to know and see this kingdom of God we must abide in the righteousness of Christ and this alone. To believe outside or beyond this, is not the gospel of hope. Jesus made obsolete every law and commandment that was written against us when he bore the wages of sin and the penalty of death upon the cross of Calvary. He accomplished this by the power of the Spirit of holiness when in meekness and gentleness he humbly accepted every false accusation against himself. He also bore the accusations that would fall on his followers and disciples. His death was to defeat death, not for himself (because death could not hold him), but he defeated death so that we would not fear death, but learn the goodness of God. In the new birth, we inherited a birthright to become sons of God and are adopted into the family of God through faith in Christ.

The new birth is not a religion or a doctrine, it comes through Jesus' atoning sacrifice that destroyed every handwriting and ordinance that was against us. He destroyed the old message of the wrath of God against the sinner and fulfilled every jot and tittle of the law that rendered guilt upon their heart. A power this world knows nothing of – what is this power?

It is the power of unconditional ("Agape") love. Love that conquers all – and never fails.

We are birthed into the kingdom of Christ's love, which is the ever present kingdom of God. This love is clearly explained in **1 Corinthians 13**.

*<sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, also perseveres. <sup>8</sup> Love never fails.*

Paul describes it this way – as a more excellent way. Yes, it is the only way – and it is the way that Jesus not only manifested but exemplified by his nature and character. This is why no man born of natural means is accepted as a righteous person in God's sight. Because the natural man in all his wisdom cannot produce agape love, this proves it is a work of God's Holy Spirit.

How then can anyone be saved in God's eyes?

We must trust in the Lamb of God as our Saviour from sin and death and the demands of the law of commandments, this is our only hope of righteousness before God. His death and shed blood cleanses our heart and mind from the guilt and burden of broken law which causes trespasses against God and one another. Our hearts and minds are granted a clear conscience to serve the living God and obey the law of the Spirit of life that is in Christ Jesus. Only faith and trust in the crucified Lamb of God can take away the sin of the world.

This can raise many questions concerning our ongoing relationship with God.

1. What happens if I sin as a Christian?
2. Am I accepted in God's presence or am I cast out?
3. Can I confess my sin and retain my status as a Christian?
4. Is my fellowship with God hindered by my sin?

The answer is given in scripture.

**1 John 1: 5-10 - 2: 1-2**

<sup>5</sup> *This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is not darkness at all. <sup>6</sup> If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. <sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from every sin. <sup>8</sup> If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives. <sup>2:1</sup> My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defence – Jesus Christ, the RIGHTEOUS ONE. <sup>2</sup> He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.*

To this understanding I write, we can at any time fall for the temptation to sin. No man is exempt from temptation and temptation does not come from God for he tempts no man with evil. We are tempted when we are drawn away by our own lusts and enticed (James 1: 13-15). The Holy Spirit is our advocate while we live in the realm of natural understanding and he will never leave us or forsake us and will always bring to our remembrance the goodness of God that was accomplished by Jesus. The "Righteous One" will always stand in our place before the Father and plead our case in the courts of mercy and grace. Our response to the truth that is in Jesus is what really counts, because heaven's love in our heart shed by the Holy Spirit, is overcoming love. Yes, love overcomes all the works of the world, the flesh and the devil.

**1 John 3: 1-10**

<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 we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know when he 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. <sup>4</sup> Everyone who sins breaks the law: in fact, sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup> But you know that he appeared that he might take away our sin. And in him is no sin. <sup>6</sup> No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or knows him. <sup>7</sup> Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. <sup>8</sup> He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. <sup>9</sup> No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. <sup>10</sup> This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.*

There is a trinity that is of heaven and this understanding is often misunderstood and maligned, which leads people to adhere to unhelpful doctrines and dogmas. This trinity is Father, Son and Holy Spirit and these three are one and come from above. What is also misunderstood is there is an unholy trinity and these three are one and are earthly and come from beneath. They are the world, the flesh and the devil. We as sinners are confronted with an ongoing choice of whom we will believe and serve. The choice is; are we going to follow the lusts of our own sinful hearts when tempted to obey the unholy trinity's temptations of evil and unbelief or are we to obey and follow Jesus who is the Way, the Truth and the Life that leads to holiness and peace.

## 1 Corinthians 15: 56

*The sting of death is sin and the power of sin is the law.*

To some it is easier to demand people live under their interpretations of scripture by placing them under scrutiny to their obedience to the law of Moses and claiming this is God's command for righteousness. The truth of this matter is that the law was given to expose the sin that causes corruption in men's hearts that could not and would not allow them to attain to the law's demands. This failure to meet the law's demands was intended to bring men to their knees and cry out to God for a Saviour. Unfortunately, because of corruption and lack of humility and grace in men's hearts, they were unable to recognise the Saviour when he came. This caused them to adopt a righteous attitude to the law which blinded their minds to the "Righteous One" who stood before them. Men of corrupt hearts and minds that lack faith would rather attempt to obey a law of commandments that gives them an appearance of right-standing before men but not before God. This happened in the time of Jesus and continues to happen today even this very hour. Our righteousness has no power before God and is classed as filthy rags in God's sight, but is accepted and given approval by naturally minded men. Excuses are made for this attitude by the phrase "we are only human". The only right-standing that the Father receives is the obedience of faith in Jesus Christ. This faith only works by love – Christ's love. He is the "way" we should love as he loves us. The love of Christ in our hearts shed by the Holy Spirit is the Father's love. This is "Holy Trinity love".

The love that comes from the "unholy trinity" is the love of the world which is not the love of the Father. It is carnal love that the world embraces in fornication, adultery, pornography, abortion and LGBT etc. practices. Some of us have been trapped in this unholy alliance, but now by the Spirit of grace we are now washed clean and set free. The "unholy" trinity entices love of money as the paramount evil, this is embraced by all worldly authorities. Although every authority is ordained by God and must be submitted to by Christians, these authorities are corrupted and in submitting to these worldly authorities in love (the love of God in our hearts by the Holy Spirit), we make them moribund and powerless. When we abide in the kingdom of the Son of his love, Christ protects and overcomes all worries and fear. Perfect love casts out all fear.

This place of quiet rest is readily described by David in the Psalms.

## Psalm 34: 1-22

*<sup>1</sup> I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. <sup>2</sup> My soul will boast in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. <sup>3</sup> Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together. <sup>4</sup> I sought the Lord and he answered me and he delivered me from all my fears. <sup>5</sup> Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame. <sup>6</sup> This poor man called, and the Lord heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles. <sup>7</sup> The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them. <sup>8</sup> Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him. <sup>9</sup> Fear the Lord you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing. <sup>10</sup> The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing. <sup>11</sup> Come my children listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days, <sup>13</sup> keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies. <sup>14</sup> Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. <sup>15</sup> The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cries; <sup>16</sup> The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth. <sup>17</sup> The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. <sup>18</sup> The Lord is close to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. <sup>19</sup> A righteous man may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers them from them all; <sup>20</sup> He protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken. <sup>21</sup> Evil will slay the wicked; the foes of the righteous will be condemned. <sup>22</sup> The Lord redeems his servants; no one will be condemned who takes refuge in him.*

Yes, we can taste and see that the Lord is good and his mercy endures forever.

We must humble ourselves under God's mighty hand and repent and believe the gospel of salvation. Jesus Christ brought good news of deliverance from the wrath of God that comes upon sin and granted us a new way of living. He did not come to take us out of the world but for us to go into the world as his ambassadors preaching the gospel, the good news that God is not holding our sins against us and he has cast the remembrance of them into the sea of forgetfulness. The major binding and dominating force of sin is unbelief. The gospel has been so corrupted and the kingdom of God put afar off that many hindrances to the truth are proclaimed from church pulpits and their institutions. They do not realise the door to Christ's kingdom has been flung open and the defences of hell will not prevail against it. In Christ's kingdom there are only brothers and sisters who operate under one Lord, who is Jesus, and his kingdom is growing and growing and overcoming the world and its corrupt practices. God is in full control.

The kingdom is not only growing universally, it grows existentially. The kingdom grows and grows as the knowledge of the glory of the Lord fills the earth according to divine prophecy. It is also growing in each and every believer as they grow in grace and truth. This process may not appear outwardly, but it is appearing inwardly to those that love the Lord with all their heart, soul and mind. Christ is appearing in his people and they are a building of living stones, a habitation for the Lord. The outward known church cannot accomplish this through rules and regulations, Sabbath and holy days, temple building, laws of circumcision etc. This alone is accomplished by the circumcision of the heart through the Holy Spirit. God's wondrous working power of humility, meekness and gentleness, in good times and times of adversity, is working mightily by redeeming what was lost. Adherence to the truth in Jesus Christ and the trust and reliance of a holy God to accomplish the work which he started is the essence of faith. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end and what he purposed and planned will be fulfilled. Through eyes of faith we live in Christ's kingdom of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit and we reap the benefits of those who have gone before us. We experience now the love, joy and peace of the coming age by promise without seeing the full manifestation of heaven's glory. We trust that what God has promised and fulfilled in Jesus and live in an unseen kingdom of joy that has no walls, no rituals, no leadership but Jesus Christ, Saviour, sanctifier, judge, and redeemer. We live by faith and not by sight. We see a city made by God which comes out of heaven and is the new Jerusalem from which he will reign in righteousness in both heaven and earth. We experience that coming kingdom now and only unbelief prevents any sinner from the reality of this in their present life. All unbelief is sin and Jesus is the Lamb of God who can wash away all guilt from our lives and give us eternal life. The power of eternal life banishes all thoughts that diminish God's holiness and his goodness. This is known to us as the presence of God in the here and now, not something afar off, as the scripture says – "Let this mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." The mind of Christ eliminates the double mind and grants us peace eternal.

#### **Hebrews 11: 6**

*And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

The unbeliever will grant and believe in his own existence but through selfishness, pride and unbelief will not grant God his existence. Unbelief causes men to exclude the Creator who created them to have any existence both now or in the future, because they have had no experience of him in the past, even though he is as near as the very next breath they breathe.

Fear not dear believer of the things that are in the earth or that are coming upon the earth.

Let us be reminded by scripture what an apostle said. We also are like this apostle who was prone to misunderstanding and failure. Yet this servant of Christ met an unholy death at the hands of unbelievers because he continued in "the way of Christ" to the end. His faith kept him whole.

## **1 Peter 1: 13-25 to 2: 1-12**

<sup>13</sup> Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>14</sup> As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. <sup>15</sup> But Just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; <sup>16</sup> For it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy,”. <sup>17</sup> Since you call on a Father who judges everyman’s work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. <sup>18</sup> For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. <sup>20</sup> He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. <sup>21</sup> Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. <sup>22</sup> Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. <sup>23</sup> For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. <sup>24</sup> For, “all men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, <sup>25</sup> but the word of the Lord stands forever.” And this is the word that was preached to you. <sup>2:1</sup> Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and deceit, hypocrisy, envy, slander of every kind. <sup>2</sup> Like new born babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, <sup>3</sup> now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. <sup>4</sup> As you come to him, the living stone – rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him – <sup>5</sup> you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For in scripture it says; “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen a precious cornerstone, and one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” <sup>7</sup> Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “the stone the builders rejected has become the capstone,” <sup>8</sup> and, “a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message – which is also what they were destined for. <sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you, are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. <sup>12</sup> Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

May God strengthen us all to obey the gospel of good news to which we are called and not to depart from the truth of the living God. We are in the world but not of the world and if we continue to the end we shall not see death, but overcome it by the blood of the lamb and the word of our testimony. When we see him we will be like him, and to be like him we must see him as he is. He is the glorious “righteous one” and to diminish his righteousness in any shape or form is to rob God of his glory and in turn to rob ourselves of the truth. Jesus alone is the “righteous one” begotten of a “righteous Father” and they by grace impute the righteousness of Christ to the believer who receives this grace and truth by faith. Remember the scripture in **1 John 3: 2**.

*Dear Friends, now we are the children of God and what we will be has not yet been made known.*

May grace and truth rest mightily upon the true saints of God, who live in fellowship with the Father and the Son by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **Bill and Sue**

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