

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.

The Kingdom of God is a Kingdom of Joy

**Luke 10: 1-24**

<sup>1</sup> After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. <sup>2</sup> He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. <sup>3</sup> Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. <sup>4</sup> Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

<sup>5</sup> "When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' <sup>6</sup> If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you. <sup>7</sup> Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.

<sup>8</sup> "When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you. <sup>9</sup> Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.' <sup>10</sup> But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, <sup>11</sup> 'Even the dust of your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God is near.' <sup>12</sup> I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

<sup>13</sup> "Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. <sup>14</sup> But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. <sup>15</sup> And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths.

<sup>16</sup> "He who listens to you listens to me; he who rejects you rejects me; but he who rejects me rejects him who sent me."

<sup>17</sup> The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."

<sup>18</sup> He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. <sup>19</sup> I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. <sup>20</sup> However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

<sup>21</sup> At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.

<sup>22</sup> "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

<sup>23</sup> Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. <sup>24</sup> For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it."

Dear friends,

There is a common thread of revelation knowledge throughout the bible that exposes the reality of life in the Spirit of Christ Jesus which is granted to those taught of the Lord. The teachings of Christ result in our participation in the nature of Christ which is not happiness or worldly contentment, but is the Joy of the Lord. This joy does not come because of signs and wonders or the abundance of what the natural world calls riches. The riches of glory that are in Christ Jesus known in the heart and mind of sinful creatures, is the catalyst that brings great joy. This joy of the Lord is our strength and out of our bellies flow rivers of living water which in turn spring up into eternal life.

What is eternal life?

Eternal life is the life that has no death in it and has nothing but the glory of God in it from everlasting to everlasting.

Where can this eternal life be found?

Only in Christ Jesus and his almighty Father.

When you as a believer find this life, you discover it never came to you by the teachings of men, but by the Holy Spirit who teaches you exactly what Jesus taught his disciples. This life which is eternal cannot be found in this world's order, but is only found in the kingdom that is ruled by the sovereignty of God.

In the bible this sovereignty rule is referred to as the kingdom of heaven, or the kingdom of God - the Father's kingdom, or the kingdom of Christ. Heaven's rule is where Christ reigns and this kingdom is not of this world and comes not by observation. To enter this kingdom and to even see this kingdom you must be born again from above. This kingdom is made known to the seeking heart through the promises of God.

### **John 3: 1-15**

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus a member of the Jewish ruling council. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him."

<sup>3</sup> In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

<sup>4</sup> "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"

<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. <sup>7</sup> You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' <sup>8</sup> The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

<sup>9</sup> "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

<sup>10</sup> "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? <sup>11</sup> I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. <sup>12</sup> I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up; <sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

The natural world is filled with men and women who are trying to prove that they are sent by God – but many are really wolves in sheep's clothing. These people will do anything to protect the "work" they have started because if the "work" fails they fall. They would fight "tooth and nail" using methods that Jesus would never condone to maintain their "work" is of God. Jesus suffered loss of everything in this realm in maintaining the truth that he was sent from heaven. Not once did he fight with the weapons of carnality to maintain integrity and truth so that his Father may be glorified in the earth. Not only did Jesus maintain the truth of God in the earth, he maintained it whilst in the weakness of the human condition. This is the meaning of true faith. When the believer yields to the nature and character of the Lamb of God within their heart this is when Christ is formed in them. The image and character of Christ manifests in humility, meekness and gentleness of spirit in joyful disposition which becomes our strength. In times of extreme provocation, persecution and pressure the temptation to deny the truth that is in Jesus must be resisted and overcome. The resulting obedience to the Holy Spirit will bring exceedingly great joy. His grace is sufficient for us and his strength is made perfect in our weakness.

Every man should rejoice when their works are tried and tested, because what is wood, hay and stubble is burnt up. This proves the "work" was not of God and they can turn from their own righteousness and rely

completely on the “Righteous One”. The works of the “Righteous One” are the only works that God the Father counts as acceptable in his sight. Not every “work” that is proclaimed as a “work of God” is a “work of God”. Just because a man claims they are called of God and gathers a following of 10 or 100 or 10,000, does not qualify the “work” to be a “work of God”. Obedience to the commands of love, joy and peace is the “work of God”. Truth justifies itself and belief in Jesus justifies us to be called sons of God.

Throughout history all secular conflicts, divisions and wars are in defence of some man’s rights and authority to rule and reign and expand their territory which justifies their greed, this is what they protect. Every generation throughout the history of man has “a Putin and a Trump” in its make-up, all of them claiming they have truth on their side no matter what methods they use. What are they protecting? They are protecting nationalistic pride and their own dogmas of righteous pride. Make America great again (MAGA) is the American mantra. The restoration of Soviet expansion and imperialism is the Putin mantra of protectionism by using fear and aggression and war against its neighbours. Where do wars and fighting’s come from? They come from within a man’s heart. Lust of greed, power and authority, feed these evil human desires and its crowning glory is pride in their works. Look at me, look at me, look what I have done!

So much for the imperialism of nations, this same mantra of justifiable “works” that men have built is prevalent in the history of the church. This history is littered with casualties and congregational crisis’s that result in splits and divisions. It is not the teachings of Christ and defending the faith that causes these divisive acts, it is protecting the so called “work” that causes division. They bolster their position of authority to protect their “work” by plucking out of thin air doctrines to support the legitimacy of their “work” and they use scripture to reinforce their story. Many follow their pernicious ways instead of seeking first the kingdom of God.

In the beginning the believers and followers of Jesus gathered together on river banks and in houses, fellowshiping with very little constraints in the order of worship. They worshipped in spirit and truth and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ sought those that worshipped that way. They joined together over the common meal and broke bread together by laying down their lives for the sake of Jesus Christ and proclaimed the message that the kingdom of God was near. They could all be taught of the Lord and be led of the Holy Spirit into all truth. The common goal and motives of believers was sharing every earthly goods and participating and sharing the kingdom of God in kindness, love and goodness at the table of the Lord.

#### **John 4: 23-24**

*<sup>23</sup> Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. <sup>24</sup> God is Spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and truth.”*

The most remarkable thing was that they no longer had to rely on theophany’s (messages through prophetic visions and dreams or angelic visitations). All these methods were of temporal quality and could be subject to misinterpretation. In a moment in time something remarkable and awesome happened in this world of corruption, sin and unbelief, THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND DWELT AMONGST US.

Let us look at scripture to anchor our souls so we are not distracted into other thoughts and ideas.

Peter was encouraging his readers that after his passing what he believed would be remembered.

#### **2 Peter 1: 15-21**

*<sup>15</sup> And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things. <sup>16</sup> We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup> For he received honour and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” <sup>18</sup> We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain. <sup>19</sup> And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention*

to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. <sup>20</sup> Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. <sup>21</sup> For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

After this Peter warned that there were false prophets in the past and false teachers would come who distorted the word by using fabricated stories, even denying the Lord. But not to be concerned about this, God would deal with them and show who were the true servants of Christ who bore fruit that would remain, this fruit of the Spirit is the “works of God”. The fruit resulting of these “works” become the righteous acts of the saints which are in reality the “righteous works of Christ”. Only the tree of life that is in Christ Jesus can bear this fruit – the axe is laid to every other tree.

## **2 Peter 2: 1-4**

<sup>1</sup> But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. <sup>2</sup> Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. <sup>3</sup> In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping. <sup>4</sup> For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; .....

The “works of God” that remain are made up of gold, silver and precious stones. Of course gold, silver and precious stones are metaphors for something of indescribable value. The indescribable things of great value are the riches of glory that are in Christ Jesus, who is within the true believer. He is the pearl of great price. No man can lay the foundation for this work than the one already laid. The things of God that are a “work of God” are always bearing the fruit of the Spirit and are the fruits of righteousness.

## **1 Corinthians 3: 11-15**

<sup>11</sup> For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup> If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, <sup>13</sup> his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. <sup>14</sup> If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. <sup>15</sup> If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

How can a work of God (which is what we are) create a work of God? It is impossible! But what is impossible with man, is possible with God. Man can build upon this foundation but every man's work will be tried by fire.

God the Father has done the “work of God” through Christ that made obsolete the work of man, so no man could boast.

How did and when did God do this mighty work?

Through the cross and resurrection out from among the dead by the one he chose and sent, Jesus Christ. Every covenant, every law, every work was counted as weak and powerless to bring sinful man into eternal life. Christ was crucified on Calvary and died, then three days later was raised bodily into the new order of eternal life. This is the mystery of godliness. This is a new covenant ratified in the shed blood of Jesus. The life force of the new man is not in blood, but in the power of the Spirit of life which is in Christ Jesus.

The apostle Paul encapsulates the glory of this truth in simple words of hymnal worship in humility of praise of divine truth.

## **Philippians 2: 6-11**

<sup>6</sup> Who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but made himself nothing taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross! <sup>9</sup> Therefore

*God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Paul reiterated these thoughts in the following.

### **1 Timothy 3: 16**

*Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great:  
He appeared in a body,  
was vindicated by the Spirit,  
was seen by angels,  
was preached among the nations,  
was believed on in the world,  
was taken up in glory.*

Here in this scripture the mystery of godliness is declared in such a manner of God's determination to save and glorify all that he had created by the incarnation. Jesus Christ is the embodiment of God in the flesh.

### **Hebrews 1: 1-4**

*<sup>1</sup> In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. <sup>3</sup> The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the majesty in heaven <sup>4</sup> So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.*

God the Father revealed his true nature and character in the person of his Son. He that believes in the Son has eternal life now and the Father and the Son will make their abode in him or her, this truly is the "work of God".

All theophany's, visions and dreams are of a temporal nature and character, but the incarnation of God in the flesh is permanent, enduring and of everlasting substance. God and man are united forever in perfect harmony and peace when they are in Christ. In Christ, the believer is one with God and joyfully takes up the role of servant and desires nothing else except that the work of Christ be fulfilled and accomplished in their lives and that the glory for this be returned to God the Father in thanksgiving, worship and praise.

We are nothing of ourselves, and we seek no glory or honour for ourselves, but willingly give up all and count all loss as a gain to let Christ be glorified in our body. This body of clay cannot do the work of God, but Christ working in us and through us can accomplish the impossible.

Our testimony is "Dear heavenly Father we yield and when we have done all we yield again and again, so that Christ may be glorified and we may know as we are known".

Paul in maturity comes to this conclusion.....

### **Philippians 3: 7-11**

*<sup>7</sup> But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage rubbish, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> and so somehow, to attain the resurrection from the dead.*

Paul, after this discourse in scripture, admitted that he had not yet attained the high calling or had yet been made perfect, but he was still pressing on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus had taken hold of him. He also said; brothers I have not taken hold of it; but one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining to what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. And so somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

This is the testimony of a man striving to enter through the straight gate and walk the narrow path that leads to life. This path does not lead to heaven this path leads to life. It is the life of Christ granted us in the here and now that gives us the wedding garment to feast in the kingdom of God. This kingdom is not of this world, but it is the kingdom that God has prepared for us and it is his pleasure to give us this kingdom now. It is this powerful resurrection life of Christ within us that grants us access into heaven's realm. If we don't have it now, we won't have it then.

Jesus said in **Matthew 18: 7-9**

<sup>7</sup> *"Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin! Such things must come, but woe to the man through whom they come!"* <sup>8</sup> *If your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or cripple than to have two hands or two feet and to be thrown into eternal fire.* <sup>9</sup> *And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.*

This harsh and disturbing rhetoric is to encourage the believer not to let anyone or anything prevent them from gaining the life of Christ.

This scripture comes with dire warning of those that hinder and prevent men from coming into God's kingdom now – woe to the world. The world of religious thought that puts the coming age of the kingdom as afar off to protect their own "ungodly works" – woe to them.

The question must be asked, were there any people entering the kingdom of God while the incarnate Son was ministering on the earth?

**Matthew 19: 13-14**

<sup>13</sup> *Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them.* <sup>14</sup> *Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."* <sup>15</sup> *When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.*

The disciples at that time were still operating out of the old order and were not born again.

Unless we come as little children in faith we cannot enter the kingdom, we must be born again from above – it is not a useless doctrine, it is the reality of eternal resurrection life.

Then again Jesus spoke a parable of two sons, a parable which taught on obedience.

The question can now be asked -which son are we? The son of the bond woman that is tied to the natural world and the old order or are we the sons of promise who have an inheritance in the kingdom of God?

**Matthew 21: 28-31**

<sup>28</sup> *What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.'* <sup>29</sup> *"I will not," he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.* <sup>30</sup> *"Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go.* <sup>31</sup> *"Which of these two did what his father wanted?" "the first," they answered. Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom ahead of you."* <sup>32</sup> *For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, but you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this you did not repent and believe him.*



The ones that enter God's kingdom first are not the ones that the self-righteous would choose. The prostitutes, reviled tax collectors and children were entering the kingdom of God in the time of Jesus – but earthly minded men had shut the door to them then, and are still preventing believers from entering God's kingdom to this very day. Paul describes these two sons in a unique way.

#### **Galatians 4: 21-31**

*<sup>21</sup> Tell me, you who want to be under the law, are you not aware of what the law says? <sup>22</sup> For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. <sup>23</sup> His son by the slave woman was born in the ordinary way; but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a promise.*

*<sup>24</sup> These things may be taken figuratively for the women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar. <sup>25</sup> Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. <sup>26</sup> But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother.*

*<sup>27</sup> For it is written:*

*“Be glad, O barren woman,  
who bears no children;  
shout for joy and cry aloud,  
you who were never in labour;  
because more are the children of the desolate woman;  
than of her who has a husband.”*

*<sup>28</sup> Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. <sup>29</sup> At that time the son born in the ordinary way persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now. <sup>30</sup> But what does Scripture say? “Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman's son.” <sup>31</sup> Therefore, brothers, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.*

Remember this is figurative speech and cannot be taken literally – the two sons are an example.

We have been granted freedom in Christ to enter the kingdom of God and enjoy all its benefits. We have to give up all and follow Jesus and obey his voice and not follow the strangers voice. At this present time, we are presented with the same obstacles and problems that the first disciples were confronted with. We must continue on our way trusting, trusting as a little child, repenting of our walk that only leads to death, allowing the joy of the Lord to be our strength. Don't be deceived into thinking “our works” please God. No, it is faith in Christ that pleases God. Our works are the “works of God” when we believe and let Christ work his life within us, which is resurrection eternal life. Only those that allow Christ to “work his work” in them have their names written in the lamb's book of life. The life of the Lamb is the character, nature and image of Christ manifest in wisdom of humility, meekness and gentleness in the heart of repentant sinners who have no righteousness of their own. These disciples of Christ live not for themselves, but like Jesus give up their self-life for others, even if it means total loss of all things to gain Christ. They desire the nature of Christ and him alone to be made manifest as their life. The whole of creation groans in travail waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God. Whether this takes one year or a thousand years, it will happen because our heavenly Father has willed it into being.

We as believers can submit to God's will now and partake of the promises of God or we can build our own temples, denominations, doctrines and works that only lead to trauma, loss and death. All man-made kingdoms come and collapse, but the kingdom of God remains constant and secure in righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. You can reform a church but you can never reform the kingdom of God. Every sect and/or denomination is a “work” of men to justify their calling, instead of submitting to the rule of Christ in his glorious kingdom, rule, authority and power.

The apostle Paul in all his struggles and joys was not left with great multitudes following him, on the contrary, before his execution and death he lived in a rented house in home detention preaching the message of God's salvation to whomever came to him. There were no great crowds or a 24-piece orchestra or a church service at 11am on a Sunday for him to worship at. No, Paul bowed down in the presence of the one who called him, loved him and died for him, which caused him to worship in spirit and in truth. Paul was taught by Jesus and trusted through his word that the knowledge of the glory of God would fill the earth.

### **Acts 28: 30-31**

<sup>30</sup> *For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him.*

<sup>31</sup> *Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.*

What is your message of salvation?

Is it your works or Christ's works?

Is it your doctrines or Christ's teachings?

Is it your glory or Christ's glory?

Is it your church or the kingdom of God?

### **Matthew 23: 8-15**

<sup>8</sup> *"But you are not to be called 'Rabbi,' for you have only one Master and you are all brothers. <sup>9</sup> And do not call anyone on earth 'father,' for you have one Father, and he is in heaven. <sup>10</sup> Nor are you to be called 'teacher', for you have one Teacher, the Christ. <sup>11</sup> The greatest among you will be your servant. <sup>12</sup> For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and those who humbles himself will be exalted.*

<sup>13</sup> *"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven in men's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to. <sup>14</sup> Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. Therefore, you will be punished more severely.*

<sup>15</sup> *"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as you are.*

### **Matthew 24: 3-14**

<sup>3</sup> *As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"*

<sup>4</sup> *Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. <sup>5</sup> For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. <sup>6</sup> You will hear of wars and rumours of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. <sup>7</sup> Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. <sup>8</sup> All these are the beginning of birth pains.*

<sup>9</sup> *"Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. <sup>10</sup> At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, <sup>11</sup> and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. <sup>12</sup> Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, <sup>13</sup> but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. <sup>14</sup> And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*

The gospel of the kingdom of God must be preached to every nation before the end can come. Not the false gospel of man's aspirations and ideas, but the truth of Christ's glory and his eternal kingdom without end. Amen.

Dear friend, are you in the kingdom of the Son of his love or are you in a church system of men's rituals and liturgies. Come out from among them and be taught of the Lord and Christ will set you free.

### **Bill and Sue**

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