

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.

~~~~~

### 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. (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).

*16 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. 17 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." 18 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.

~~~~~

Luke 18: 1-8

¹ Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them they should always pray and not give up. ² He said; "In certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. ³ And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' ⁴ "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'even though I don't fear God or care about men, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see she will get justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!" ⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸ I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

Dear Friends,

The speaker of this parable is Christ himself, declaring divine authority. When Jesus speaks, heavens intention and truth is revealed and it behoves us to seek to understand it and then obey it. Just as the disciples replied when Jesus asked them, "were they going to depart from him when the going and the words he spoke became too hard to obey?" Like the apostles, the true disciple answers this way, "where can I go, you have the words of eternal life."

Has it ever crossed your mind that eternal life has no death in it?

It cannot be likened with the realm of life we live in now, which is the distorted demonstration of life that the "evil one" has foisted upon us, which is life that ends in death. The realm we live in and falsely believe in, is a life that ends. Death is the fruit of this realm of good and evil. The realm of life that Jesus offers to all who believe in him, is the gift of eternal life or life for ever more. A life that exceeds and goes beyond the boundaries of what the natural world of life can offer.

The parable of the woman going to the unjust judge is an example of persistent perseverance in the face of a hostile world that does not acknowledge God as Creator and also doesn't care about you as a believer, or care about you persevering against the injustices of this world and its systems, beliefs and institutions. In this parable Jesus says to listen to the words of the unjust judge and compares it to the true judge who will bring justice to his chosen ones quickly. But only to the ones who live by faith.

Prayer is a powerful tool for believers, it is not just about asking but also about aligning with God's will and purpose and growing in a relationship with him. We are like the mustard seed in principle. Out of small things grow big things. A small seed planted in good soil is packed internally with power to grow into the greatest tree in the garden. Firstly, putting roots downward, anchoring itself in faith and then growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Then it appears as the stem, then the leaf, then the ear and then the fruit, some thirty fold, some sixty fold and some a hundred fold. Though this is a natural demonstration of plant life, this illustration can be appropriated to our spiritual growth. First in the natural, then in the spiritual.

Many principles in the natural world are clear examples of things that accompany our understanding of the heavenly realms. Strength, sunlight, water, endurance, deserts, waste lands, fertile plains, rain, wind, mountains, valleys, rivers, seas, stars, clouds, sunrise and sunsets, night and day, the list goes on and is endless. The natural world was created by God the Creator to allow the man he created to understand an environment that would give him an appreciation of life, where life came from and his destiny.

There is life and a purpose which generates unbelief that does not acknowledge a creator who is the alpha of all life. There is also a knowledge and assurance of a life of faith that acknowledges a Creator who is the upholder of everything that lives and is alive and this life comes from him. The wisdom that reveals this truth is the wisdom that comes from heaven or a higher realm of understanding that is first pure, then peace loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peace makers who sow in peace, raise a harvest of righteousness. (James 3: 17-18)

This Creator is a living being with personality who cares for his creation and upholds all life by enthusing into the life already granted, more and more life which overcomes where falsehood and deception abounds. This Creator and giver of life overcomes and defeats the power of death, he then in abundance of mercy and grace elevates the believing soul into a life of salvation with more love gifted to overcome all adversity. This is done by the power of the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Into this broken world of pain and sorrow and end of days, came the Lord of life and in resurrection power overcame all falsehood, deception and death. He arose out of corruption and decay with a form of life over and above what was known in the consciousness of created beings. Death was overcome by new life, and falsehood was overcome by truth. What was weak, was now made strong.

Mortal does not inherit immortality. Corruption does not inherit incorruption. The old does not inherit the new.

1 Corinthians 15: 50-58

⁵⁰ I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— ⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true:

“Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

⁵⁵ “Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?”

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸ Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.

The new wine was not put in old wine skins. This new creation was not inherited by the old creation. Christ was the seed planted and in this seed came the power to produce a new leaf, a new fruit. This fruit that was life and peace, was a new creation in God's likeness and image. If any man be in Christ he is a new creation, the former things are passed away and all things are made new. The new man is created in righteousness and holiness of truth.

Religion and old habits and rituals do not “cut the mustard” in the new creation. Adherence to those ritualistic practices fails to create a righteousness through faith in Christ alone and only reinforces our failures. Obedience to the law and teachings of men and their traditions cannot elevate men's conscience to rest in the peace of the finished work of Christ. Sin will remain hidden in the heart and never be overcome. We overcome by the shed blood of Christ and the word of our testimony, this is the truth of the gospel. The Lamb of God is the only one who can take away our sin.

1 John 1: 8-10

⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

The old does not have any inheritance in the new. The gospel of Christ is the blue print of good news of the new life that not only makes the old life redundant, but issues in the new life that the natural world can only be a “shadow” of. The power of the new life is made apparent to the true believer and they will not see death, but pass from death to life when by faith they are crucified with Christ at the cross and are crucified to the old world and the world is crucified to them.

Who are the righteous and how is this righteousness assessed in our walk today?

First of all, it is God the Creator and Father of all creation who declares who the righteous are.

Romans 3: 20-26

²⁰ Therefore, no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. ²¹ But now a righteousness from God, apart from the law, has been made known, to which the law and the prophets testify. ²² This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished – ²⁶ he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Romans 3: 9-10

⁹ What shall we conclude then? Are we any better? Not at all! We have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin. ¹⁰ As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one;”

Jesus declared in **Matthew 5: 17-20**.

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. ¹⁸ I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the law until everything is accomplished. ¹⁹ Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Yes, unless your righteousness exceeds the teachings of the law and the prophets we will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

The teachings of Jesus fulfil the teachings of Moses and all the prophets because the teachings of the law could not grant you the life that Jesus brought to mankind. Jesus’ teachings were a fulfilment of the law and the prophets because they exceeded the law of sin and death and brought life and life abundantly. This being the truth, how can I enter into this life that Jesus spoke about? Firstly, you and I must seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. Jesus is the one and only righteous one, there is no other and we are accepted before God in Him.

This righteousness is of faith. This faith comes to us by hearing and hearing that Christ Jesus and faith in him is the new belief that pleases God. This belief in Christ for our righteousness comes from God and allows us to see and enter God's kingdom of love, joy and peace. This belief in our heart and mind constitutes a new birth where we are transformed in our mind and taught by the Holy Spirit the reality of salvation. The old adamic nature that proclaims life and death cannot enter this new creation so must be counted by us as past and powerless to hold the glory of God manifest in the new creation. So according to Romans 12: 1-2. We present the body of the old creation along with its desires and weaknesses to Christ and die with him to the old life and live anew so that we can prove what God's will is.

Romans 12: 1-2

¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. ² Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.

How do we do this in reality?

Well Jesus instructed us how through right prayer and petition in meekness, humility and perseverance we approach God for help in our walk while in the body of flesh. He is a just God and will come quickly to us and grow the seed which is Christ in us the hope of glory. But we must die with Christ on Calvary by faith. To die with him is to suffer with him and stop being enemies of the cross. The way of the cross is the way Jesus walked in his obedience to God's path for him. He walked in humility, gentleness and meekness and railed not against his accusers, but prayed for their forgiveness.

Are you confident of your own righteousness before God?

Or, is your righteousness before men?

The only righteousness that God the Father accepts is our faith that Jesus Christ is the righteous One, and his righteousness is put to our account when we trust Jesus for our justification and redemption from the old way of living.

Let us look at Jesus' teaching concerning this.

Luke 18: 9-14

⁹ To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰ Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men – robbers, evildoers, adulterers – or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get. ¹³ "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' ¹⁴ "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Matthew 23: 10-15

¹⁰ Nor are you to be called 'teacher', for you have one Teacher, the Christ. ¹¹ The greatest among you will be your servant. ¹² For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. ¹³ "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. ¹⁵ "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.

Luke 14: 7-14

⁷ When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honour at the table, he told them this parable. ⁸ When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honour, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. ⁹ If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give this man your seat.' Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honoured in the presence of all your fellow guests. ¹¹ For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." ¹² Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbours; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴ and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Many times in scripture, Jesus uses the illustration of feasts and banquets in his teachings. In fact, his great teachings in the gospel of John from chapter 13 to chapter 18 are associated with his last feast or table. At this time, he promised the next time he would participate in a meal with his disciples would be in the kingdom of God.

Only the humble in heart and the meek sit down and eat with the Lord in his kingdom. The kingdom of God is with us now and we eat and drink in his presence and give thanks.

This walk with Christ will bring suffering, isolation, misunderstanding by the world and those trusting in their own righteousness and superiority, but will bring fellowship with the Father and the Son to those that love his appearing. We can cry out to God and pray; "Thou mighty Christ come forth in me and also in those I pray for, may your justice revealed in Christ appear in me."

Suffering for sin is futility.

Suffering for Christ is glory.

Bill & Sue (servants and slaves of Christ).