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The Remnant of Christ's Ecclesia

in opposition to the Dogmas of
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A WITNESS TO THE TRUTH

and a warning against the deception in the last days
foretold by Christ

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AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD

MEDITATION

Our readings in the Psalms express the mind of David as he gave praise unto God. He was a man after God's own heart, and sought to honor God with those songs of praise. His first Psalm reveals his mind:

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

Psalm 1:1-3.

The Concordance reveals the meaning of meditation: to talk to oneself quietly, to mutter, to utter - giving the thought of time to think, to savor, and to delight in the law of God. One cannot meditate in the midst of a crowd, in conversation with others, or in the midst of other distractions. As we meditate, talk to ourselves, we may ask: Do we measure up in a way pleasing to God? Do we keep His commandments; do we honor Him? Is He pleased with us so that we can hope to prosper, like a tree sustained by abundant water?

There are many examples in our readings of those who meditated, revealing its great value. Isaac was one who did so:

"... Isaac went out to meditate in the field at eventime; and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels were coming."
Genesis 24:63.

Abraham had sent his servant to his relatives to find a bride for Isaac. With God's help, the servant found Rebekah, and brought her back to Canaan, where Isaac was meditating in the field. What was his meditation? Perhaps he thought of the servant seeking a bride for him, wondering when he would return. Would he bring her? Will the desire of God be fulfilled? Will there be a seed of Abraham, which would prosper, as God had decreed? God answered Isaac's thoughts:

"... Rebekah ... became his wife; and he loved her: and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death." Genesis 24:67.

Isaac was indeed the seed of promise! The Almighty heard the meditation of Isaac as he went out in the field at eventide, to find a place where he could talk to himself, without distraction.

Let us look at David's mind as he spoke of meditation in his songs of praise:

"Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my meditation.
Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God:
for unto thee will I pray." Psalm 5:1-2.

David continued in his meditation and prayer.

"... let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee." Psalm 5:11.

The Almighty hears the meditation of those who love Him.

In Psalm 19, we read of David's meditation concerning the law of God (verses 7 - 11). In his thoughts, he prayed:

"Who can understand his errors (mistakes, sins)? Cleanse thou me from secret faults.
Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion (rule) over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.
Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer" Psalm 19:12-14.

How easily presumptuous, proud or arrogant sins can rule our lives, as the flesh cries out, in "... the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life." Are the meditations of our hearts acceptable to our Father, as we sing these words in anthem?

In another Psalm, David expressed his determination to glorify God:

"My mouth shall speak of wisdom; and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding.
I will incline mine ear to a parable; I will open my dark saying upon the harp." Psalm 49:3-4.

David calmed the evil spirit of Saul by playing upon a harp. But Saul, in jealousy, sought to kill him with a javelin as David played

upon the harp. David's mind was:

"Wherefore should I fear in the days of evil ... ?"

Psalm 49:5.

David's hope, and no doubt his meditation, in such circumstances was to trust in God, looking to the end of God's purpose, when all God's saints will be among the 144,000 redeemed from among men:

"... I heard the voice of harpers, harping with their harps:
And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth."

Revelation 14:2-3.

Going back to David's words, we perceive his rejoicing as he meditated upon this hope:

"I will sing unto the LORD as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.

My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the LORD.

Let the sinners be consumed out of the earth, and let the wicked be no more.

Bless thou the LORD, O my soul. Praise ye the LORD."

Psalm 104:33-35.

What greater praise can there be than subjection to His word, striving to follow in Jesus' example, as He spoke to His disciples:

"... If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." Matthew 16:24.

How can we do so? David helps us:

"O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.

Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me.

I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation." Psalm 119:97-99.

Teachers help understanding, but the heart must be reached by meditation if it is to be circumcised, the lusts of the flesh being cut away. Can we see, Brethren and Sisters, the spirit of David as he meditated upon the word of God to sustain him in all his troubles?

He further helps us as he expresses his love for God:

“Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.

Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name.

My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips:

When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches.

Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.” Psalm 63:3-7.

David further spoke of his meditations in the quiet of the night:

“I call to remembrance my song in the night: I commune with mine own heart; and my spirit made diligent search.

Will the LORD cast off for ever? and will he be favourable no more?

And I said, This is my infirmity but I will remember the years of the right hand of the most High.

I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings. Thou leddest thy people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.”

Psalm 77: 6-7,10,12,20.

Paul, in writing to his beloved Timothy, encouraged him in his work of witnessing

“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine, continue in them, for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.”

I Timothy 4:12-16.

We can find the same encouragement from meditation in times of need.

Jesus Himself knew the importance of meditation as He was

in need of help. For example, when He heard that Herod had killed John the Baptist, He, in sorrow:

“... departed thence by ship into a desert place apart...”

Matthew 14:13.

On another occasion, Jesus sent away His disciples, and:

“... departed into a mountain to pray.”

Mark 6:46.

He knew the help of meditation - apart, in a quiet place to pray, to build up His determination, to submit to His Father's will. It was in the Garden of Gethsemane that He said to His disciples:

“... Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.”

Matthew 26:36.

In the midst of His struggles to conquer His flesh, Jesus found help as he meditated, and prayed:

“... not as I will, but as thou wilt.”

As we face difficulties, trials, hardship, affliction, temptation, fear - our minds go back to the Almighty's words to Joshua as he faced the work of leading Israel into the land of promise:

“...as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee ...

Be strong and of a good courage ...

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate (talk to self) therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.”

Joshua 1:5-6,8-9.

Let us, with David, pray to the One who knows our hearts:

“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.”

Psalms 19:14.

J.A.Def.

SABBATH OF REST

Our recent portions in Psalm 92 give us through David, an important insight into God's word. The title tells us this psalm was written as a "Psalm or Song for the sabbath day". The word "sabbath" means to rest, and in this psalm David stops to meditate and reflect upon the purpose of God in creating man and the promise seen in the sabbath day.

Through the record in Genesis we learn of man's creation:

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."

Genesis 1:26-27.

It was then that God contemplated what He had created and confirmed, "behold, it was very good".

God's purpose in creating man was to give him a dominant place in His newly formed creation - over all the creatures of land, sea and air. But because man sinned in disobeying God's word, the law was established to make plain right from wrong and point out the path the faithful must follow if they hoped to be redeemed from the sentence of death upon all flesh. Through Moses, this law was taught to the people, emphasizing the importance of the sabbath day:

"Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you...

Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant.

It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed."

Exodus 31:13,16-17.

That word "refreshed" means "to breathe" as in finishing a task and pausing, or resting to reflect upon it, much as David did

when writing this 92nd Psalm he contemplated God's goodness as seen in the creation and the rest promised in the sabbath day.

The sabbath was to serve as a reminder of the covenant between God and His people. The other creatures of his creation cannot think upon His glory - only man, given the power to reason, can reflect upon God's work and praise Him accordingly. The sabbath was to remind the faithful of the sabbath of rest to be instituted at the end of man's days of toil and tribulation when the Kingdom is established at Christ's return. In six days did God create the earth and its inhabitants and in the seventh or sabbath He rested - the forerunner of the six thousand years of man's life on earth followed by the sabbath of rest in the kingdom age for those approved in His mercy when Christ returns.

David through faith, saw the coming of His Greater Son as the Messiah, and the establishment of this final sabbath of rest when he contemplated the promises given by the Almighty. He recognized that without God's hope of salvation, there would be no way in which a faithful man could triumph and how important it was to thank the Creator daily, not only for this good earth but for the hope held out as foretold in the sabbath:

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High:

To show forth thy loving-kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night.

O LORD, how great are thy works! And thy thoughts are very deep.

A brutish man knoweth not; neither doth a fool understand this."

Psalm 92:1-2,5-6

Paul also speaks in gratitude of God's blessings and of this same promise first made to Israel and now to be fulfilled also to the Gentiles, through belief in the Lord Jesus Christ:

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them...

That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ." Ephesians 2:10,12-13.

The Lord Jesus was tested during His time of probation concerning His understanding of the spirit of the sabbath:

“And it came to pass also on another sabbath, that he entered into the synagogue and taught: and there was a man whose right hand was withered.

And the scribes and Pharisees watched him, whether he would heal on the sabbath day; that they might find an accusation against him.

But he knew their thoughts, and said to the man which had the withered hand, Rise up, and stand forth in the midst. And he arose and stood forth.

Then said Jesus unto them, I will ask you one thing; Is it lawful on the sabbath days to do good, or to do evil? To save life, or to destroy it?

And looking round about upon them all, he said unto the man, Stretch forth thy hand. And he did so: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

And they were filled with madness; and communed one with another what they might do to Jesus.” Luke 6:6-11.

It is clear how the scribes and Pharisees had corrupted the law by seeing only the letter of it and failing to live it in the spirit, as did the Lord Jesus. Just as David said, “A brutish man knoweth not; neither doth a fool understand this” (Psalm 92:6), so none without the spirit of truth and love can understand the beauty seen in that word, nor live it faithfully.

David goes on in this 92nd Psalm to speak of the end of those who ignore His word and refuse to walk therein:

“When the wicked spring as the grass, and when all the workers of iniquity do flourish; it is that they shall be destroyed for ever:

But thou, LORD, art most high for evermore.

For, lo, thine enemies, O LORD, for, lo, thine enemies shall perish; all the workers of iniquity shall be scattered.”

Psalm 92:7-9.

To be “scattered” means divided, making us think of Christ’s judgment to come when there will be a division made between the workers of iniquity and those who have endeavored to please Him. David yearned to be found approved in that day, and in hope wrote:

“But my horn shalt thou exalt like the horn of an unicorn: I shall be anointed with fresh oil.

Mine eye also shall see my desire on mine enemies, and mine ears shall hear my desire of the wicked that rise up against me.”

Psalm 92:10-11.

The word "unicorn" means "to lift up" and David believed he would be raised up above the corruption of the grave if he kept his walk of faith with his eye fastened on the sabbath of rest promised. In view of this hope he wrote:

"The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God."

Psalm 92:12-13.

They will flourish and grow with vigor in the day they are in His mercy, found acceptable at Christ's judgment seat. They will thrive in the courts of the Lord as spirit beings - the flesh now destroyed, serving Him for eternity, face to face.

"They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing;
To shew that the LORD is upright: he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him."

Psalm 92:14-15.

These last few verses of this psalm speak of the hope of entering into that final sabbath of rest when the flesh will be gone and those approved and standing at the right hand of His judgment seat will no longer feel the effects of its bondage. In spirit bodies with the flesh destroyed, they will dwell with Christ their Lord for an eternity of peace and joy.

As we yearn to share in that sabbath of rest, let us persevere to daily walk in obedience, submission and contemplation, as did David, of the blessings promised to those who endure unto the end.

M.C.S.

**"That day shall not come, except there come a falling away.- - -"
(2 Thessalonians 2:3)**

In addition to apostasy, oh how great the falling of belief in God's merciful, holy record! The so called knowledgeable evolutionist ignores the clear truth, that this wonderful world and its heaven of cloud and of wind, and rain above it, was made through the working of an omnipotent power, whose greatness none can comprehend. To suggest that the life we see around, in the vastness of infinite variations of form, "made themselves and changed themselves over a long period", is to allow thinking to become influenced by imagination.

The world and its wonders was formed by a Creator. It was no haphazard development, and being designed, it has been set out for "a purpose". So, we ask the question, would an "all wise" Supreme Being, raise up a beautiful earth, and intellectual people to have a dominance in it, without telling those people the reason for this wonderful work? So we have the Bible. But the peoples of the world have dishonoured God by going after a Teaching, emanating from an imaginative mind, which is called "evolution". Those who would honour God the Creator, cannot accept "evolution".

Recently the worlds' media had this to say:-

"- - - what is increasingly STRANGE these days is belief in the supernatural, in this case, creationism. This as the name suggests is the belief that the theory of evolution is wrong and that God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh - as it is written in Genesis, the first book of the Bible. Most practising Christians take this as a symbolic account rather than actual fact but more and more people now appear to be taking it seriously. Indeed, it has now been announced that it will be included in the - - - curriculum in science lessons, where it will be presented as an alternative to the theory of evolution."

Why has this statement now emerged? Surely because some have realised that the teaching of evolution cannot truthfully be conveyed to young minds as a proved fact. But there has been an amazing reaction to this from "so called religion". Eminent ones, in certain quarters of religion, have this reported of them. -

"They have - - - voiced serious concerns about teaching

the Genesis story. It should not be part of the science curriculum, but rather in comparative religion."

Another influential leader has emphatically declared:-

I am - - - "totally opposed" to teaching creationism - - -. One comment, published in the media, has endeavoured to undermine the witness of the Bible in the following:-

"We in the West frequently congratulate ourselves on how advanced we are compared with most of the rest of the world, and how post-Reformation Christianity is able to absorb the growing amount of information we have about our origins. Yet here we have a group of intelligent people believing something last adhered to around the time that most people thought the earth was flat. Why? Are they so brainwashed with evangelist fervour that they simply cannot accept the fact that human life has taken several million years to evolve? - - - An awful lot of people believe in creationism and their number is growing. There are some schools in this country who teach creationism not as an alternative to evolution but as the only explanation of our origin."

Indeed it is! Christ thought so!! Consider what Jesus said, as recorded in Matthew's record:-

"Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, for this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they twain shall be one flesh?"

(Matthew 19:4-5)

Jesus believed what the book of Genesis testifies to. Yet, at the present time religious leaders of eminence are reported to have pronounced, "that the teaching of Genesis should not be part of the science curriculum." Yet would be highly indignant if they were to be charged with failing to uphold what Jesus believed in. They, of course, attempt to get around this difficulty in speaking of Biblical symbology and their advocacy of what they term "comparative religion". So respect for the Bible is reduced, and disappears completely from many minds who reject it.

No wonder the remark in influential media is as follows:-

"At the beginning of the 21st century, when we have sent space ships to examine the further reaches of our solar system, these intelligent people believe Earth was created in less than a week. The only rational explanation for it is

that they are searching for something that has become increasingly difficult to find. - - -"

However, there is the ponderings of some questioning minds, impressed by the marvellous wonders of Creation:-

"Creationism is dangerous but it should give pause to all who think that religion is for medieval peasants, and that the rest of us are far too sophisticated for all that. When society turns its back on the wondrous and the holy, they have a way of making their presence felt - - - society is crying out for a spiritual dimension. - - -"

The spiritual dimension is lacking in leaders who proclaim concern about teaching the Genesis story to the young.

Oh! how precious is the Truth, and the upholding of it, in following what Jesus witnessed to, in His wonderful life on this earth.

The doubt, now so greatly cast upon the Bible record, even in some quarters of religion, is a fulfilment;-

"Let no man deceive you - - - that day shall not come except there come a falling away - - -".

(2 Thessalonians 2:3)

The aspect of scriptural disbelief, in modern scientific teaching is part of a "falling" of which the Apostle warns.

A BIBLE CLASS

"...THE POOR HEARETH NOT REBUKE"

Proverbs 13:8.

Proverbs chapter 13 is a contrast between good and evil. Solomon wrote:

"A wise son heareth his father's instruction, but a scorner heareth not rebuke"
Proverbs 13 1.

The wise son shows his wisdom by heeding his father's instruction, in the spirit of subjection to his father's counsel. One who scorns, not only does not heed his father's instructions, but scorns it - or as the word means: to mock, or one who looks upon rebuke with derision. Our particular verse is only a very small part

of The Proverbs, which were God - given to Solomon, as it is written:
"The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel;
To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of
understanding; To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice,
and judgment, and equity; To give subtilty to the simple, to
the young man knowledge and discretion. A wise man will
hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding
shall attain to wise counsels:

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: but fools
despise wisdom and instruction." Proverbs 1:1-5,7.

Our subject is an example of the wise counsel of the Almighty
through Solomon:

"The ransom of a man's life are his riches: but the poor
heareth not rebuke." Proverbs 13:8.

"Ransom" comes from a Hebrew word to cover, and is a price
paid for one's deliverance from captivity. It is used as a price paid,
a bribe, pitch, satisfaction. One who is kidnapped can be freed if a
ransom is paid. Under the law of sin and death, sin inevitably brings
captivity to death. The only escape from that sentence is through
the price paid by the Lord Jesus, as a ransom for those who seek to
honor and obey God's word. This is the grace of God, as Paul wrote:

"For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of
yourselves: it is the gift of God
Not of works, lest any man should boast."

Ephesians 2:8-9.

This ransom - the hope of eternal life through the victory of
the Lord Jesus - is life through the price paid. It is man's riches,
above any other gift!

Solomon also wrote:

"... but the poor heareth not rebuke." Proverbs 13:8.

Who are the poor - those who are destitute, who lack, and are
needy - those who are not covered by the ransom, the gift of God,
which allows the hope of eternal life? Why are they poor, lacking in
such great riches? It is because they "heareth not rebuke" and so
have made themselves poor.

What is the purpose of rebuke? Paul reveals its purpose, as he
wrote to his beloved brother Timothy:

"... continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and
hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned
them;

And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures,
which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through

faith which is in Christ Jesus.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" II Timothy 3:14-17.

What greater riches could there be than the working of the word of God in our living, to reprove (rebuke), to keep us in that strait and narrow way which leads to the kingdom of God? The Almighty's commandments are the signposts that point the way, correct us when we stray, rebuke us when God knows it is needed. The flesh hates rebuke because it desires "the lusts of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life" which lure us continually - testing our determination to hear rebuke, which is necessary to keep us in His way. Jesus said to His apostles as He rebuked Peter: "... thou art an offence unto me: for the savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men."

Matthew 16:23.

Having rebuked Peter, Jesus instructed his disciples:

"...If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." Matthew 16:24.

Let us remember the words of Solomon:

"... but the poor heareth not rebuke" Proverbs 13:8.

Solomon was given great wisdom and understanding; along with it, he was granted great riches and honor. As he grew old, he turned from that strait and narrow way, as we read:

"For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives (700 wives and princesses, and 300 concubines) turned away his heart after other gods and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father." I Kings 11:4.

Indeed Solomon realized this, as he wrote:

"Better is a poor and a wise child than an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished." Ecclesiastes 4:13.

Remember Solomon's words:

"...I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in," 1 Kings 3:7.

What a change in his spirit! At the end of his life, he had made himself poor, having refused correction - a foolish king despising wisdom and instruction (Proverbs 1:7).

J. A. DeF.

THE POWER OF LOVE

We find help to grow spiritually in our recent daily reading from Matthew, as the Lord Jesus responded to the Pharisee who endeavoring to tempt Him asked:

“Master, which is the great commandment in the Law?”

Matthew 22:36.

The Lord Jesus drew upon His knowledge of the word as He answered without hesitation:

“... Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Matthew 22:37-40.

From the record in Deuteronomy where the law was first given through Moses, we see how important it was that God’s teaching be passed from father to son throughout the generations!

“Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey.

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”

Deuteronomy 6:3-7.

Israel’s whole duty in life whether they be in their houses, walking, sleeping or upon rising in the morning, was to remember and love the Lord their God and their neighbor as themselves in everything they did and to teach that spirit of love to their children.

The foundation of God’s law was based on love. What love is revealed as God has condescended to look down upon mankind and provide a hope for His people. What love to give His only Son, who out of love for His Father and brethren, offered up His life in order to become the perfect sacrifice between God and man.

Paul in writing to his Roman brethren spoke of this same love

which they must endeavor to emulate in order to become one of His children:

“Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.”

Romans 13:8-11.

Now is the time to apply this message to our living in the spirit of love. Not in the letter of the law, as did the scribes and Pharisees, but in an endeavor to walk in the example of God’s Son, the Lord Jesus Christ - the fulfillment of all love.

“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.”

I John 4:7-11.

Having experienced that love, it was Paul’s fervent desire that his brethren be rooted and grounded in the same love which Christ displayed for all who believe on Him. A love so selfless that He gave His life that His brethren and sisters may have the hope of eternal life through His name:

“That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith: that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.”

Ephesians 3:17-19.

There is another aspect to a loving Father, which Paul reveals to his Hebrew brethren:

“And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.” Hebrews 12:5-6,11.

The “peaceable fruit of righteousness” are fruits of the spirit, from a heart driven by love for God and others and not self. Peace is oneness and the result of a desire to reflect God’s love, for He is the Author of all peace and love, and all hoping to be joined unto Him must reflect the same attributes in their living.

Do we truly value the love of God and His Son as we should? Do we exhibit that love in developing the fruits of righteousness in our daily living?

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.” Galatians 5:22-26.

These words were written by Paul - one who did provoke and persecute the followers of Christ, until he was touched by the Spirit on the road to Damascus and surrendered his life to following after Christ. What a testament to the power of love that could turn a heart of flesh to one which sought to serve God, spending his life as His minister, preaching to others the doctrine of love through Christ.

“Charity (love) suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not, charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

Charity never faileth:”

I Corinthians 13:4-8.

M.C.S.

SIGNS OF HIS COMING

The lips of talkers

“ - - - Prophecy and say, - - - ye are taken up
in the lips of talkers. - - - ”

(Ezekiel 36:3)

In the history of the world there has never been so much “talk” as is now evident at the present time. The prophecy, of course, particularly concerns Israel, which is an infamy among Arab peoples. The transmission of propaganda continues for twenty four hours a day in some parts of the world. Some of this concerns the land of the Jews. Ezekiel, of the tribe of Levi, forwarns his people of what will be voiced against them at the time of the end:-

“- - - Ye mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord:
Thus saith the LORD GOD; Because the enemy hath said
against you, Aha, even the ancient high places are ours in
possession:
- - - ye are taken up in the lips of talkers, and are an infamy
of the people. - - - Thus saith the LORD GOD - - - Surely the
nations that are about you, they shall bear their shame.
But ye, O mountains of Israel, ye shall shoot forth your
branches, and yield your fruit to my people of Israel - - -
Yea, I will cause men to walk upon you, even my people
Israel; and they shall possess thee, and thou shalt be their
inheritance. - - -”
(Ezekiel 36:1-12).

In connection with these words of scripture, and this consideration, it is perhaps easy to just accept the modern communication development. But the very great increase of speech from nation to nation, and amongst the people, is indeed prophetically indicated, and is an important sign of the times. Truly, as Ezekiel says, the subject of the land of Israel is “- - - taken up in the lips of talkers - - -.”

Communication by letter from nation to nation on the present scale, and also voiced by radio and telecommunication, would not have been thought possible at one time. Alexander Graham Bell, who died in 1922, was an American physicist and inventor. Because of health problems he moved with his father to Canada in 1870, though previously living for a time in London and Edinburgh. In

1872, he set up a school in Boston for the purpose of helping the deaf. Shortly he became a professor of vocal physiology at Boston University. In 1876 he produced an apparatus which transmitted sound by electricity. The device was to make an electric current to vary in intensity, in proportion to the sound waves of the speaker. Improvements and modifications to this device followed, and the eventual result is the modern telephone. He was of course experimenting to help the deaf, and founded the "American Association to Promote the teaching of Speech to the deaf." Why was A.G.Bell so concerned for the deaf? Well, his wife Mabel Hubbard, was seriously deaf, and he made considerable effort to help her. Eventually he tried to sell his telephone patent to Western Union. Their reply, at the time, was, "This electrical toy has far too many shortcomings to ever be considered a practical means for communication."! But look at the position today!! The world spends two billion pounds on ringtones in a year. There are now more than two billion MOBILE 'phones in the world. According to one statistical research effort, there are, for example, more mobile 'phones than people in the United Kingdom since 2004. A 2003 survey stated that across Europe workers spent 34 per cent of their time upon the telephone. When the Spirit declared through the prophet Ezekiel, that the time would come when Israel, and her people, "would be made to come upon the lip of the tongue" (margin), what an impressive sign would those words of scripture point to, as God's purpose, with the land of Israel, develops to that ultimate conclusion in Christ's return.

NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR AUGUST 2006

Hamburg, NEW YORK, Corner Southwestern Blvd. & Pleasant Avenue.

Sunday: Breaking of Bread 11:30am

Sunday Afternoon Class: 1:45pm

Midweek Bible Class: Forestville, Hamburg & Fredonia

Every Third Week: Revelation Study

In response to prayers of all, those in illness are improving, evidence of God's mercy and love toward those who seek to please Him.

The annual Summer Outing is scheduled, God willing, for August 12th.

Correspondence continues, revealing interest in the word of God and the promise it reveals.

J.A.DeF.

MANCHESTER

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 a.m.

Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00 p.m.

As the year rolls on we can feel thankful for the continuing production of a very nicely presented magazine.

The knowledge that it is read, not only in the United States and Britain, but in far away states in Africa, and Australia gives a feeling of satisfaction.