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# The Remnant of Christ's Ecclesia

in opposition to the Dogmas of  
Papal and Protestant Christendom

A WITNESS TO THE TRUTH

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

**"Take heed that ye be not deceived"**

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**"AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD"**

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AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD

**"REMEMBER YE THE LAW OF MOSES"**

In our readings this week, we have traveled with Israel as God guided them out of Egypt. The firstborn of Israel were saved from the angel of death, as Pharaoh finally let them leave their bondage in Egypt. In Exodus chapter 19, Israel arrived at Mt. Sinai:

"In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai.

For they were departed from Rephidim, and were come to the desert of Sinai, and had pitched in the wilderness; and there Israel camped before the mount."

Exodus 19:1-2.

As they camped at Mt. Sinai, Moses would remember the Almighty's promise to him at the burning bush in Midian:

"... Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain."  
Exodus 3:12.

Three months later, Moses and Israel, following the pillar of cloud and fire, camped before Mount Sinai, fulfilling the promise of God. What a lot occurred in those three months! First, there were the plagues that came upon Egypt, when Pharaoh refused to let Israel go to the land promised to Abraham about 450 years previously. Then, at the Red Sea, Israel was saved from Pharaoh and his army by the waters being parted, allowing Israel to go over on dry ground. Pharaoh's army followed Israel, but they were destroyed as the waters returned and drowned all of them. Paul wrote concerning this salvation of Israel:

"Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;

And were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

And did all eat the same spiritual meat;  
And did all drink of the same spiritual drink: for they drank  
of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock  
was Christ" I Corinthians 10:1-4.

Paul also spoke of the faith of Moses and Israel, as they crossed  
the Red Sea:

"By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land:  
which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned."

Hebrews 11:29.

What faith it took to walk through the sea, between the walls  
of water held back by the power of God!

"... the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst  
of the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on their  
right hand, and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel....

And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon  
the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and his  
servant Moses." Exodus 14:29-31.

Moses sang of God's power on behalf of His people:

"The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my  
salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an  
habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.

Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people which thou  
hast redeemed: thou hast guided them in thy strength unto  
thy holy habitation." Exodus 15:2,13.

God did redeem His people in His mercy and grace.

As we contemplate Israel and Moses' rejoicing and gratitude  
for God's redemption - delivering them from their enemies and  
leading them by the pillar of cloud and of fire - we are helped to  
rely upon the Almighty in times of distress and peril. As He led  
Israel, they were able to lift up their eyes and see the cloud or the  
fire, always present to guide, to strengthen, and to deliver. We by  
faith have assurance of His Presence in response to prayer, working

on our behalf, for He knows what is best of us. Would we have the faith, as did Israel, to walk between those two walls of water? Would we put aside all doubt, and in faith rejoice, as did Moses in his song of redemption?

As God had promised Moses at the burning bush, He guided Israel as they came to Mount Sinai. As Israel camped in their tents, God called Moses up on the mount:

“And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying: Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel, Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles’ wings, and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine. And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.”  
Exodus 19:4-7.

Moses conveyed God’s words to Israel, who responded:

“... All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.”  
Exodus 19:8.

In obedience to God’s word, Israel agreed to this covenant, desiring to do all that the Lord had said.

The Almighty further spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, giving Israel the law - called the Ten Commandments, the essence of that law. These commandments were part of Israel’s covenant with God. They were given to Moses on two tables of stone, “written with the finger of God.” We perceive the mercy and grace of God as He gave His people this law which, if obeyed, would glorify Him and teach them of God’s purpose. What was God’s purpose as He gave Israel these commandments? One purpose was, as Paul writes:

“... that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.”  
Romans 7:13.

The Almighty, knowing men’s weaknesses and failures - all of

which displease Him - has provided these commandments that they might know what God requires in those who make a covenant with Him. Another purpose of God in providing these commands is, as Paul writes:

“Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

... ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.” Galatians 3:24-29.

The Greek word for “schoolmaster” is “paidagogos” - as in pedagogue - an instructor to teach the spirit of the law, fulfilled in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, who alone perfectly kept the law. He was the unblemished “Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world (John 1:29). Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist to “fulfil all righteousness” - being baptized by water and by the Holy Spirit. When Jesus was baptized, He went up:

“... straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

And lo, a voice from heaven, saying. This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” Matthew 3:16-17.

Even as Moses and Israel were baptized in the sea and the cloud, so Jesus was baptized of water and of the Spirit to fulfill God’s purpose for Him to become the Redeemer.

The commandments given to Moses, to Israel, to ourselves today, are signposts, pointing out the narrow way that leads to the kingdom of God. What mercy, what grace that God should grant these signposts, to help, to warn, and to point out the way of redemption. The Lord Jesus as the schoolmaster walked in that strait and narrow path, in complete obedience, until he cried out on the cross: “... It is finished.” His struggle to never sin was accomplished.

The veil of the temple was rent, to signify that there was a High Priest who could enter into the most holy place, and atone for His people. We remember His victory each first day of the week, as He has commanded: "... this do in remembrance of me" (I Corinthians 11:24). We renew our vow to keep His Word, to do His will, as Jesus said to Peter, when he was a stumbling block to Him:

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

In our striving to follow Him, denying self, determined to heed the signposts which God has granted, let us read the last words of the Old Testament, as Malachi exhorts:

"... unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.

Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments." Malachi 4.2-4.

J.A.DeF.

## SELAH

From David's writing in the Psalms, we learn how mindful he was of the Kingdom of God to come, especially from his frequent use of the word, "Selah" meaning, "value it, considering the end". David uses this word seventy times in thirty-nine Psalms.

Even when Selah is not used, many of David's psalms are entitled "To the chief Musician", which is translated as, "the One who overcomes" - clearly speaking of the Lord Jesus' role as the Victor who has made possible the hope of a Kingdom of peace for His followers:

"To the chief Musician, A Psalm and Song of David,  
Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Sion: and unto thee shall  
the vow be performed.  
O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come."  
Psalm 65:1-2.

David writes of praise being made to God by all nations, people & tongues in Zion - those who have made a vow to honor and obey Him, after receiving a knowledge of the Truth.

"Blessed is the man whom thou chooseth, and causeth to  
approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we  
shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of  
thy holy temple."  
Psalm 65:4.

"All the earth shall worship thee, and shall sing unto thee;  
they shall sing to thy name. Selah"  
Psalm 66:4.

In the day that the Lord Jesus establishes the Kingdom of God on earth, the covenant made by God with man will finally be fulfilled, which He promised saying, "I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people" (Lev. 26:12). The reward of obedience in walking after that covenant, is the hope of dwelling in the Kingdom of righteousness centered in Jerusalem and encompassing the entire world.

David looking in faith to the end of God's purpose, saw how His mercy could help him to overcome now the fleshly failures that threatened to pull him away from the path of obedience leading to that Kingdom:

“O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come. Iniquities prevail against me: as for our transgressions, thou shalt purge them away.” Psalm 65:2-3.

David had faith in the promise of a Son from his line who would one day rule the Kingdom of God for eternity - the only means of entrance for all who believe on Him, to enter therein.

Just as in Psalms 120 to 134, all entitled “Songs of Degrees” or “Songs of Ascent” (a going up to Zion), David’s focus is single in purpose. As Psalm 132 echoes:

“For the LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation.  
This is my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it.” Psalm 132:13-14.

Paul reminds those in Corinth of this same hope set before them through David’s greater Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and how to attain unto this prize, they must endeavor to follow after His example of righteousness:

“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolators, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,  
Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.  
And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.” I Corinthians 6:9-11.

Paul goes on to teach of how the fruits of the Spirit must be cultivated in one’s living in order to change the man of flesh into a man of spirit, and a vessel meet for His use:

“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.” Galatians 5:22-25.

The ability to walk in that spirit reveals what is in the heart. Each day as we are tried and tested, God looks for the application of the fruits of the spirit working in those that desire to be His.

Paul wrote to the Hebrews - those born under the law, who were endeavoring to walk as followers of the Lord Jesus toward the Kingdom of God:

“But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,  
To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,  
And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.”  
Hebrews 12:22-24.

All of the faithful from the time of Abel, saw this hoped for gathering afar off, yet those who desire to have their names written in heaven, know they cannot overcome the flesh on their own. Only through the Lord Jesus, as Mediator and High Priest, is approach to God possible.

After receiving the knowledge of His Truth, we have made a vow to keep His covenant and walk before Him with praise and obedience. Through our Mediator, the Lord Jesus, we have a means of approach when we slip and fail through weakness, to seek forgiveness and mercy.

Each day brings us nearer to the reality of Jesus' return to establish the Kingdom of God on earth. While we wait in hope but with fear, let us as did David, look forward in faith to the time when all the earth will praise Him as they receive their King in the spirit of “Selah” - valuing it considering the end:

“Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee.  
O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. Selah.”  
Psalm 67: 3-4.

M.C.S.

## GOD'S LAW AND MANS' WAY

The law of Moses was a civil polity as well as a system of spiritual guidance and prophecy; that is, it was a system of rules for regulating the relations of mortals living together as a community, as well as a revelation of individual principles of action and the foreshadowing of the divine purpose with man. It will be profitable to look at it in this character before entering upon the significances concealed in its ceremonies.

It differs in many important respects from the systems upon which modern civilization is based. In some respects, the differences may appear to be in favour of modern systems, but on consideration it may be found that this feeling is due to the mere bias of habit, and that the law of Moses was more calculated to evoke the true conditions of social well-being than the current modern systems.

It certainly cannot be said that modern systems are a success. They have developed two hurtful extremes: they have, on the one hand created exaggerated individual importance as the adjunct of congested wealth, and on the other, they have debased vast masses of mankind by disconnection from hereditary estate, and subjection to incessant toil for a bare subsistence. Between the two, the true aims of human life have been lost, and abortion of all kinds produced. Mankind, instead of living together as the common and delighted sharers of a mutually ensured benefaction, are insulated from each other by exigencies which compel them to be competitors, and reduce them to the position of a scrambling crowd of dogs, quarrelling over food thrown promiscuously among them. Under such conditions, the evil in human nature gets the hopeless upper hand. The good that many would rejoice to see is choked and extinguished in the war of conflicting interests.

(R.Roberts)

**"THE EARTH - - - FADETH - - - THE  
WORLD LANGUISHETH - - -."**

"The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish.

The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance. - - - Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth. - - -"

(Isaiah 24:4-6)

The above words describe a sad and hurtful condition of things. However the Spirit's message through the prophet gives hope.

"Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid. - - -

Shall the work say of him that made it, He made me not? - - - Is it not yet a very little while, and Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be esteemed as a forest? - - - in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book. - - - The meek also shall increase their joy in the LORD, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy one of Israel."

(Isaiah 29:14-19)

The Truth is ultimately to prevail. The theory that endeavours to deny God's creative work, in speaking of an evolving multitude of living things upon this good earth, is to disappear as divinely affirmed in the words "the wisdom of their wise men shall perish."

In the meantime a voice of unease is heard in the world of men. Let us note some of the recent comments that have appeared in the World's media as follows:-

"Governments around the world are pondering the latest report of the United Nation's Intergovernment panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which addresses today's most controversial question: what should be done to halt global warming? - - -

The IPCC wants urgent cuts in the levels of heat-trapping greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide. To do that,

governments must cut their dependence on fossil fuels and launch energy—saving initiatives.

It sounds straightforward. If the Earth is heating up because of too much greenhouse gas, then cutting it will lead to it cooling again. - - -

But the five million billion tons of gases, water vapour and gunk we call the atmosphere is - - - more complex than your average central heating system. - - - It is replete with staggering complicated interactions with the oceans, continents and even life itself - - - . Many believe that your carbon footprint, caused by flying, driving and so on, can be offset by donating money to plant more trees. Yet research suggests planting trees to mop up carbon dioxide can boost global warming. If they grow in previously pristine northern latitudes, their dark surfaces reflect less sunlight into space than the snow-covered ground they replaced.”

The prophetic words of Isaiah 24:5 speak of a defiled earth because of the changes men have brought about, and seem appropriately descriptive of how things have altered in recent years. It has to be admitted that there is an advancement; but even though travel is easier, and production is greatly enhanced, the other side of this is the problem of the resultant contamination. Is there an answer? Looking at the changed way of life can man alter and rectify what now so greatly predominates? The scriptural testimony is that for the sake of this good earth, a rectification will come from Heaven. Meanwhile men lament with such words as:-

“The latest UN conference on climate change says we have just 10 years to avert a full-scale environmental crisis.”

**A BIBLE CLASS**

**"BY THE SADNESS OF THE COUNTENANCE  
THE HEART IS MADE BETTER"**

**Ecclesiastes 7:3**

Solomon, through his God-given wisdom, helps us in our striving to be more pleasing to our Father. He writes:

**"A good name is better than precious ointment..."**  
Ecclesiastes 7:1.

"Precious ointment" is pleasing; indeed, it was used in the anointing of the high priest as well as the priests when they began their service to God. "A good name" is earned by good behavior, good works, and faithful service. Solomon recognized the importance of a good name, which is pleasing to God:

**"The light of the eyes rejoiceth the heart: and a good report  
(name) maketh the bones fat."** Proverbs 15:30.

He further helps us:

**"A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches,..."**  
Proverbs 22:1.

One who strives to please God will value a good name rather than the riches of this world, which are pleasing to the fleshly mind. Solomon continues his help:

**"It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart.  
Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better."** Ecclesiastes 7:2-3.

The fleshly mind rejoices in laughter, feasting, riches - living to please self rather than looking to the end of one's life, which inevitably comes to all men. Those who have earned a good name in God's eyes, rejoice in the hope of eternal life in His kingdom, when Jesus Christ returns to gather those whose names are written in the Lord's book of life.

Being flesh, we fail and offend God, thereby sullyng our good name. Yet God in His mercy and grace has provided a means of forgiveness for our failures, when there is sorrow for having offended, and true repentance is shown. Paul, having sent a letter to one in Corinth, exhorts:

“For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though it were but for a season. Now I rejoyce, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.”  
II Corinthians 7:8-11.

Repentance brings forth sorrow, not laughter - being in a house of mourning rather than the house of mirth; better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than the song of fools (See Ecclesiastes 7:4-5).

Can we then profit by the wisdom of Solomon:” ... by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better” - in the eyes of God? The sadness of the face reflects the sadness of the heart - a true repentance for failures. How joyful will be the countenance of those who are judged to be pleasing to God, whose names are written in the book of life, as they stand before the judgment seat of the Lord Jesus, and hear His words:

“... Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”  
Matthew 25:34.

Those who have lived a life of laughter, feasting and mirth, who have sought those things which please the flesh, will hear Jesus' verdict:

“... Depart from me, ye cursed:  
... these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the  
righteous into eternal life.” Matthew 25.41,46.

Solomon, who wrote Ecclesiastes, did have a good name in the beginning - a humble heart desiring to glorify God. As he grew older in his reign over Israel, with renown as the wisest man, he began to enjoy his riches and esteem. He gathered many horses, and had many wives, including those who worshipped idols. His heart was turned away from righteousness, from desire to glorify God, replaced with an enjoyment of feasts, riches, and fleshly lusts, until:

“... it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives 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.

Solomon had become what he had warned against:

“Better is a poor and a wise child than an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished.  
... Surely this also is vanity and vexation of spirit.”  
Ecclesiastes 4:13,16.

Does our countenance reflect a heart dedicated to serving our Father, saddened when we fail, and ready to repent? We remember David's reflection when he had failed, saying:

“... I have sinned against the LORD.” II Samuel 12:13.

He was known as a man after God's own heart - a good name, written in the book of life.

J.A.DeF.

## ECCLESIASTES

A recent study under consideration comes from the Book of Ecclesiastes, which being interpreted means "The Preacher". This clearly identifies the author of Ecclesiastes as King Solomon, the son of David, as the first chapter makes evident:

"The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem."  
Ecclesiastes 1:1.

These accumulated writings are the observations of Solomon who was given great wisdom of God and wrote most eloquently as he studied the frail endeavors of man and how they impact upon the promised reward held out by the Almighty, to those who overcome.

In the fifth chapter Solomon gives us the benefit of his wisdom by teaching how we may best walk in ways which are pleasing to God:

"Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil.

Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few."

Ecclesiastes 5:1-2.

To keep one's foot is to choose one's words and steps with care, being more ready to hear than to speak, thus curbing one's natural impulses. To do so guides a man into the ways of righteousness - the path which God has set out for His children, that they may honor Him and not self. If each time we spoke, one's words were thought out carefully, it would allow the flesh to be restrained through circumspection.

We know from science, the mouth doesn't speak on its own accord - it is tied to a whole network of nerves connected to the brain, which the scriptures speak of as the "heart". The Lord Jesus had perfect control at all times over His mouth. He taught the necessity of this control to the Pharisees - those ruled by the letter of the law and who ignored the Spirit's love seen therein:

“O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.”

Matthew 12:34-37.

That same condemnation, of which the Lord Jesus speaks, came first upon all flesh because of man’s failure in the garden, thus sentencing all flesh thereafter to the grave. The Lord Jesus was the first son of Adam to escape the bonds of the grave because He conquered the fleshly impulses born in His flesh through perfect obedience and love of the Father.

“But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.

For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies; These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.”

Matthew 15:18-20.

Here is the same message which Solomon put forth, that which comes from the mouth also comes from the heart, whether it be flesh oriented or from a controlled spirit of love and understanding. Solomon said “Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin”, meaning give no opportunity for thy mouth to utter anything which would cause harm to another or give God displeasure.

Often repressed feelings within a person surge to the surface - anger, resentment and jealousy. When the mouth is not bridled, it spills forth with vehemence causing harm. James also spoke of this danger, warning:

“Behold, we put bits in the horses’ mouths, that they may

obey us; and we turn about their whole body.

Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.

Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.”  
James 3:3-6.

Where there is a fear of God, there is a desire to bridle oneself, knowing how frail the flesh is and how unruly and quickly the tongue can sin before God. A true sacrifice - not one of lambs or bulls, is to exert control on the natural inclinations of the fleshly man within, by bridling his tongue through the teachings of the spirit.

Additional thoughts by Solomon, taken from the Proverbs add weight and insight to the danger of an unbridled tongue:

“In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.

The tongue of the just is as choice silver: the heart of the wicked is little worth.”  
Proverbs 10:19-20.

The flesh strives to have the last word, to win all arguments and make its point known - all characteristics of a fleshly mind and an unruly tongue - abhorrent to the Almighty.

Solomon’s concluding thoughts in the Ecclesiastes give us a remedy to our natural fleshly behavior by following after the example of our Shepherd the only One to perfectly curtail His flesh through obedience to God’s word - the Lord Jesus Christ:

“The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that which was written was upright, even words of truth.

The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd.”  
Ecclesiastes 12 10-11.

M.C.S.

## SIGNS OF HIS COMING

“ - - - The day of the LORD - - - cometh as a thief in the night.

For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them. - - -”

(1 Thessalonians 5:2-3)

The above words have a chilling tone about them. But consider the following recent media comment:—

“Relations between Russia and the West have been increasingly strained of late due to the U.S. plans to deploy missile defence systems in Eastern Europe and bogged down discussions on the arms control treaty. The (Russian President) is making his displeasure felt. With renewed economic cloud, the Russian bear is sharpening its claws. We must watch carefully.”

What is being watched? Well, recently, Russia tested a missile, which it claims is capable of piercing any defence shield developed by the U.S.A. It is a rocket that is powerful enough to carry up to 10 War-heads, and is able to overcome any potential missile defence system developed by foreign countries. A Russian army leader, speaking about it, said that the test firing of it took place from a mobile launcher, and would be a “highly effective response” to the United States “Star Wars” plans.

America however has affirmed that U.S.A. missile developments are not aimed against Russia, but only against a threat from Tehran or Pyongyang, (Iran and North Korea) to intercept any attack of those enemies from the East. A United States designed interceptor site is being planned to be set up in Poland, aimed to destroy missiles as they enter space. America also wants something similar, with a radar base, in the Czech republic.

Russia, however, does not like such plans. The Russian leader, speaking in a critical tone, has said, “We consider it dangerous to turn Europe into a powder keg and stuff it with new weapons.” He went on to say, “It creates a new risk for the whole system of international and European relations.”

In recent years there has been considerable amounts of

expression for "peace and safety", but hovering behind a lot of diplomacy we see there is still division between east and west, (or in another description between north and south), still evident in the world's affairs.

The memory of the 2nd World War is receding; but though that was a terrible time, the present threat of nuclear warfare causes the details and memories of those dreadful events of the 1st. and 2nd. World Wars, to pale into insignificance.

What a wonderful sign and prophecy the scripture gives to us for these last few days that remain, when it says:

"But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.  
For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ."

(1 Thessalonians 5:4 & 9)

**NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR AUGUST 2007**

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

We rejoice at the baptism of Carol Stokes on May 10th, after a full and spiritual confession of her faith on April 20th. This addition to our small ecclesia is a blessing and an encouragement in these last days.

Our annual Summer Outing is scheduled, God willing, for August 11th.

J.A.DeF.

**MANCHESTER**

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 a.m.

Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00 p.m.

As the Ecclesial work continues, this goes on because of an overruling mindfulness of our needs.

Also in various personal need, we have the comfort of prayer, knowing that we have approach to the Great Eternal through One, who so very well Himself, experienced the feelings of our infirmities.