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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

**“HEARKEN UNTO ME, YE THAT... SEEK THE LORD”**

God sent His prophet, Isaiah, to the two remaining tribes during the reign of Hezekiah. It was a time of turmoil, as Sennacherib was besieging Jerusalem, and Hezekiah was ill unto death. Nine years earlier, the other ten tribes had been taken into captivity by Assyria. In these dire circumstances God sent Isaiah to Hezekiah to encourage and sustain him:

“Hearken unto me, ye that follow righteousness, ye that seek the LORD: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.”  
Isaiah 51:1.

Hezekiah sought God’s healing of his illness and the removing of the siege of Jerusalem, as he put his trust in the Almighty and followed righteousness.

What is righteousness? It is that which is just, virtue, justice - the word of God to those who seek Him. He is the only source of true righteousness. Can we see why God spoke to Hezekiah through Isaiah:

“Hearken unto me, ye that follow after righteousness... ”  
Isaiah 51:1.

Hezekiah hearkened and was healed, and the army of Assyria was removed from Jerusalem.

There are only two ways in man: (1) righteousness, and (2) evil. Paul learned this, having been converted on his way to Damascus:

“... the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.  
Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.

For we know that the law is spiritual (of God): but I am carnal, sold under sin.” Romans 7:12-14.

Paul hearkened, and asked:

“... Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?...” Acts 9:6.

He was shown what was righteousness, and he was:

“... a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel.” Acts 9:15.

For the rest of his life he was a vessel “... prepared unto every good work” (II Timothy 2:21).

Isaiah further spoke:

“Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you: for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him.” Isaiah 51:2.

Abraham hearkened to God as in faith he left his land of birth:

“By faith... when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.” Hebrews 11:8-10.

Abraham’s faith caused him to hearken and obey God at 75 years of age, and he became the father of the nation of Israel.

Isaiah used the example of Abraham’s righteousness to encourage Hezekiah, and further spoke of God’s promise for those who do hearken:

“For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden,

and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.

Hearken unto me, my people; and give ear unto me, O my nation: for a law shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgment to rest for a light of the people.

My righteousness is near, my salvation is gone forth, and mine arms shall judge the people; the isles shall wait upon me, and on mine arm shall they trust.

Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings." Isaiah 51:3-5,7.

It was not a time of joy and gladness for Hezekiah, but God spoke to comfort him:

"Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.

I, even I, am he that comforteth you: who art thou, that thou shouldst be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made as grass;

And I have put my words in thy mouth, and I have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand, that I may plant the heavens, and lay the foundations of the earth, and say unto Zion, Thou art my people." Isaiah 51:11-12,16.

What a great comfort is the shadow of God's hand extended to those who seek righteousness and hearken to His words!

We are flesh, striving to follow God's word; but at times we fail to hearken, and so depart from the shadow of His hand. Yet the Almighty in mercy and grace brings us back to that comforting shadow of His hand, if we hearken to His guidance, and repent for our failures. God in His kindness has provided the means of mercy and grace through the gift of His Son Jesus Christ. Isaiah conveys His provision:

"Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.  
Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that

her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned:  
for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all  
her sins." Isaiah 40:1-2.

God did speak comfortably to Hezekiah, and he hearkened -  
responding to God's deliverance from his illness, and the threat of  
Assyria.

Isaiah further revealed the purpose of God to bring about  
comfort to those who hearken to His word:

"The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye  
the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway  
for our God.

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill  
shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough places plain.

And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh  
shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken  
it." Isaiah 40:3-5.

These words of God came to pass in the coming of John the  
Baptist to baptize the Lord Jesus, as we read:

"Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be  
baptized of him. But John forbad him, saying. I have need  
to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now:  
for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he  
suffered him." Matthew 3:13-15.

John hearkened to Jesus' words, and thus all righteousness  
was fulfilled, as Jesus preached the gospel for three and one-half  
years, until He died on the cross, never having sinned. He always  
submitted to His Father, and in the end He cried out: "... It is  
finished" (John 19:30). His fleshly nature was conquered,  
complementing the fulfilment of all righteousness, as He further  
cried out:

"... Father into thy hands I commend my spirit; and having  
said thus, he gave up the spirit." Luke 12:46.

Jesus hearkened; He never failed, never sinned, and now is at His Father's right hand as a mediator and redeemer for those who trust in God, hearkening in times of trouble.

David was one who hearkened to God, as a man after God's own heart. He failed, he sinned; he could have been stoned because of his failure with Bath-sheba. He hearkened to Nathan the prophet, saying: "... I have sinned against the LORD" (II Samuel 12:13). God forgave him, although he suffered for his failure to obey God's law.

David and Hezekiah both hearkened to the LORD and were comforted. They are examples for us as we strive to be pleasing in His sight. We all fail and cry out for His mercy and grace, His forgiveness, in the hope of eternal life when Jesus Christ returns. He will judge all the responsible. Those who are striving to "fulfil all righteousness" have the hope of hearing His words:

"... Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

Matthew 25:34.

Let us remember Jesus' words:

"For many are called, but few are chosen."

Matthew 22:14.

Those who do hearken will have their names written in the book of life.

J.A.DeF.

## “THEIR HEART IS FAR FROM ME”

Throughout the ministry of the Lord Jesus, and particularly while He taught in Jerusalem, He was constantly confronted by the Scribes and Pharisees, who tried to discredit and suppress His teaching. He thwarted their objections through the spirit of truth contained in His words - a spirit, which they themselves lacked because of their hard and fanatical philosophy.

The Pharisees were a formal religious and political group during Jesus' time, who practiced their own version of God's law. They had corrupted His word as given to Moses, believing it was open to men's interpretation. They embellished the simplicity and love of God's law with their own man-made traditions and rituals governing daily life, which has become the foundation for Judaism today. They challenged Jesus' teaching of the truth because it undermined their positions of prestige and authority with the people, who looked up to them as leaders.

The Lord Jesus rebuked them as hypocrites because they ignored God's law of love and kindness, and while on the surface appeared pious, they followed instead their own self-important traditions:

“... Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.

Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.

And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.”  
Mark 7:6-9.

In another attempt to silence Him, the Pharisees approached Him in a warning manner, saying:

“... Get thee out, and depart hence: for Herod will kill thee.”  
Luke 13:31.

Did they really care about His welfare to warn Him of Herod? No, this was yet another scheme to try and vanquish Him, and well He knew, for He faced them courageously, answering:

“... Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.”  
Luke 13:32.

Jerusalem had been destroyed by the king of Babylon and the nation of Israel taken into captivity, because of Israel's refusal to obey God, repent of their wickedness or hear the messengers He sent to minister His truth unto them:

“Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the LORD which he had hallowed in Jerusalem.  
And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place:  
But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.  
Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand.”  
II Chronicles 36:14-17.

History was repeating itself once again, as the priests, elders, Scribes and Pharisees, who should have been shepherding Israel in God's way, spearheaded an attempt to silence His Son, who like the prophets of old, had come to save them.

Jeremiah, another of God's messengers, brought His rebuke to those of Jerusalem for the same behavior, saying:

“For the children of Israel and the children of Judah have only done evil before me from their youth: for the children of Israel have only provoked me to anger with the work of their hands, saith the LORD.

For this city hath been to me as a provocation of mine anger and of my fury from the day that they built it even unto this day; that I should remove it from before my face. Because of all the evil of the children of Israel and of the children of Judah, which they have done to provoke me to anger, they, their kings, their princes, their priests, and their prophets, and the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

And they have turned unto me the back, and not the face: though I taught them, rising up early and teaching them, yet they have not hearkened to receive instruction."

Jeremiah 32:30-33.

Knowing Israel's history, and with a perfect understanding of the scriptures, the Lord Jesus knew that many of the prophets faced similar circumstances as did He, in their work as God's messengers. Now He too mourned over Jerusalem's refusal to hear instruction, sent by a loving Father:

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!"

Luke 13:34.

Throughout their history, how often Israel turned their backs upon God - delighting instead in their own ways, while refusing to hear His messengers and prophets sent in His grace, to correct and chasten.

The Pharisees tried to frighten the Lord Jesus into fleeing Jerusalem by using the threat of Herod's power and influence. Yet it wasn't Herod who caused His death, but His own people, led by the priests, elders, Scribes and Pharisees - those who stopped their ears from hearing truth.

He did not falter in his faith or determination, regardless of their threats. His hope was anchored in the sure knowledge that God's will would be done, no matter the adversary, and that His care and protection would be constant to the end.

From the record in Hebrews, we read of many faithful, who

stood fast in the face of fear against their adversaries:

“Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:”

Hebrews 11:33-35.

These strove through faith to attain unto the same promise of life everlasting, although only One, the Lord Jesus, has done so perfectly. The rest wait in the grave for the last day, when the purpose of God is fulfilled, and they are resurrected to the judgment seat of Christ to receive their just rewards.

We look forward to the same day of deliverance and are encouraged by their examples of strength and courage, to walk in newness of faith each and every day that remains to us. John saw this day in vision, while exiled on the Isle of Patmos - the same hope we look for today:

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away: and there was no more sea.

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them and be their God.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”

Revelation 21:1-4.

M.C.S.

**“--- Redeemed us from our enemies. ---”  
Psalm 136:24**

God declared from the time of Moses and even before:-

“I will bring you unto the land, concerning the which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob: and I will give it you for an heritage: I AM THE LORD.”

Exodus 6:8.

The complete fulfilment of this promise, being a promise of The Most High, it is bound to take place.

There are many in the world today who frown upon the Jewish occupation of Palestine. But this voice of opposition is to be caused to cease, it is to be of no avail. It is not always fully realised how great is the rejection of the Jewish position. A review of the facts helps to a realisation of what the worldwide position is.

One in four people of the world's peoples are Muslim. Here are the figures that have been given.

The Indonesian Muslim population is 203 million.

Britain has a total of 1,647,000 Muslims.

India has a total of 161 million.

Ethiopia has a total of 28 million.

China has a total of 22 million.

Russia has a total of 16 million.

Tanzania has a total of 13 million.

It is stated, that two-thirds of all Muslims live in ten countries. Six of these are in Asia (Indonesia, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Iran and Turkey). There are also three in North Africa (Egypt, Algeria and Morocco). Also they are an entity in Sub-Saharan Africa (Nigeria).

Actually, the global calculation of the Muslim population is 1.57 Billion. This is a formidable total, and the fact is that there are many who are living in countries where Islam is not the majority religion.

These facts raise the question, where will this fit into the world situation, when Jesus returns to establish the world-wide Kingdom from Heaven, which will be based in Jerusalem.

Such facts bring a realisation of what great changes are to take place in this good earth when Jesus Christ comes to bring about a world-Kingdom of peace and love and joy for all people.

A BIBLE CLASS

**"FOR I AM PERSUADED"**

**Romans 8:38**

In our consideration from the 8th chapter of Romans, Paul is writing to his brethren at Rome, teaching and encouraging them in their walk after the example of the Lord Jesus.

He is careful to outline the difference between the ways of the spirit contrasted to the ways of the flesh, for the flesh manifests itself not according to God's word, while the ways of the spirit join those who are persuaded by it, to Him and His Son:

"For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be."

Romans 8:5-7.

The Almighty has provided His Son, Jesus as a Mediator - a bridge between God and His people and a Covering for sin through whom they may approach for forgiveness when they fail. His brethren must strive to be of the spirit, as the Father and Son are, and not walk after the tendencies of the flesh:

"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness."

Romans 8:9-10.

Paul speaks encouraging his brethren in the hope that is offered by God to those who endeavor to walk in the spirit:

"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:38-39.

To be “persuaded” means, “to be moved by argument to a belief or course of action”. Paul was persuaded of the hope God has set forth in His love by providing a Savior His Son, Jesus Christ.

To be persuaded of Christ one must display his teachings and reflect the love He exhibited, in their living:

“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”  
Romans 8:18.

When will this glory be revealed in His brethren? - at the judgment seat of Christ, when those found approved in His mercy, receive God’s gracious gift of eternal life, because they have endeavored to overcome during their time of probation.

During his lifetime, Paul went from a persecutor of Christ’s brethren to being one persuaded, and who then brought the light of the gospel message to many. Yet after his conversion, he suffered many grievous tribulations as a minister for Christ - perhaps more than anyone recorded in the scriptures:

“Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.  
Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;  
In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;  
In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.”

II Corinthians 11:24-27.

Because of his misplaced zealousness as a persecutor of Christ’s brethren, Paul realized there would be a price to be paid in kind, for the suffering he had caused although done in ignorance. Therefore, perhaps his trials and persecutions stand out in their severity when compared to others - and certainly when compared to us today of the same persuasion.

In his Psalms, David often referred to the future Messiah as, “The One Who Overcomes” or the “Victor”. It is because of this victory that the love of Christ is held out to any who will walk after

His example. The only thing that can remove this hope is we, by turning our back on that gift offered - choosing instead a life in the world, ruled by carnal thinking.

The gospel message is the good news of the kingdom of God, made possible only through the name of Jesus Christ and belief in Him. This must be our persuasion, as it was Paul's, in order to receive the reward offered:

In the garden, the evening before His death, the Lord Jesus agonized, praying for strength to endure unto the end:

“And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.”

Mark 14:36.

He acknowledged that “all things” are possible with God and put His trust in the Father above all else - even though He agonized to face what lay ahead of Him as the Lamb of God.

If one is separated from the love of God, there is no hope of life everlasting. To be at one with God and His Son, there must be a different frame of mind, from that which is natural to all mankind - a daily crucifying of one's fleshly tendencies and a yielding to the ways of the spirit in all our living.

During his time in Jerusalem, Jesus was approached by some, demanding to hear from his own lips, if he was the Messiah promised through the law and the prophets:

“Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly.

Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.

But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never

perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."

John 10:24-29.

His teaching and the miracles He performed did not persuade those Jews - they were obviously not His sheep. His followers did not need to hear Him say, "I am the Messiah" - they were persuaded and believed by His example and His teaching, like sheep who respond only to the voice of their own shepherd.

As Jesus taught, not even death can pluck the faithful out of His hand if they have reflected His spirit of love during their time of probation. They rest in the grave, awaiting the call to resurrection and the judgment seat of Christ, with hope they will be found acceptable in God's grace and mercy.

*"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.*

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

I Thessalonians 4:13-18.

Paul's message reminds us as well, that the love of God is seen in the Lord Jesus as the Victor. He has overcome His flesh nature, therefore if we are not walking after His example, we have no part in Him. But if we are persuaded in the gospel message and in Jesus as our Savior and Mediator, then not even death can separate us from the love of God and the gracious reward He has in store for those that love Him.

M.C.S.

**“HETHAT IS SOON ANGRY  
DEALETH FOOLISHLY”  
PROVERBS 14:17**

Our subject is taken from the Proverbs of Solomon:

“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.” Proverbs 1:2-4.

Anger (wrath) is one of the works of the flesh, as Paul wrote  
in Galatians 5:19-21, revealing:

“... that they which do such things shall not inherit the  
kingdom of God.” Galatians 5:21.

One who hastens to anger, quickly allowing the flesh to prevail,  
is dealing foolishly, rather than submitting to the wisdom,  
understanding, and instruction of God’s word.

Solomon frequently spoke of foolishness, reminding us:

“... the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and  
he pondereth all his goings.  
His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he  
shall be holden with the cords of his sins.  
He shall die without instruction; and in the greatness of his  
folly he shall go astray.” Proverbs 5:21.23.

One who is soon angry:

“... answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and  
shame unto him.” Proverbs 18:13.

We have many examples of those who were quick to anger,  
rather than allowing the wisdom and understanding of God’s word  
to rule in their dealings. One example of quick anger began in the  
time of Cain and Abel. They each brought offerings, God had respect  
to Abel’s offering, but Cain’s He did not respect. Cain’s quick  
reaction:

“... (he) was very wroth (angry), and his countenance fell.”  
Genesis 4:5.

The Almighty gave warning to Cain, saying:

“If thou doest (deal) well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.”  
Genesis 4:7.

Cain’s mind was still angry, and his anger culminated in his killing righteous Abel.

Another example of anger involved Moses at the water of Meribah. Israel had been wandering in the wilderness:

“And there was no water for the congregation: and they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron.  
And the people chode with Moses, and spake, saying, Would God that we had died when our brethren died before the LORD!”  
Numbers 20:2-3.

They had traveled in the wilderness for 38 of the 40 years. God had brought this sentence upon Israel, for their refusal to enter the land promised. As they journeyed, they provoked Moses and Aaron by their repeated murmuring during those 38 years. The LORD told Moses to take his rod and “speak ye unto the rock” and it would bring forth water in spite of all their murmuring. Moses and Aaron in anger were provoked, and failed to obey God, saying:

“... Hear now, ye rebels, must we fetch you water out of this rock?  
And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also.”  
Numbers 20:10-11.

Moses and Aaron, having been provoked many times over a period of 38 years, became angry, and failed to sanctify God in the eyes of the children of Israel, saying: “... must we (Moses and Aaron)

fetch you water.. ?" - rather than God's doing so. We read in Psalm 106:

"They angered him (Moses) also at the waters of strife, so that it went ill with Moses for their sakes:  
Because they provoked his spirit, so that he spake unadvisedly (foolishly) with his lips." Psalm 106:32-33.

As a result of Moses and Aaron's failure to sanctify God, they were not allowed to enter the promised land, but died in the two remaining years of wandering.

Solomon also wrote in the Proverbs:

"A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous (displeasing) words stir up anger.  
The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.  
The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good. A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit."  
Proverbs 15:1-4.

We know the fruits of the spirit:

"... love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,  
Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."  
Galatians 5:22-23.

Surely there is no anger among these fruits!

As we perceive the wisdom and understanding of the Proverbs, let us strive to live by the spirit, as the Lord Jesus helps us to do so:

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

J.A.DeF.

## SIGNS OF HIS COMING

**“- - - In the last days perilous times shall come.”  
2 Timothy 3:1.**

A recent media call of warning exclaimed, “In our dangerous world we need a nuclear defence!” Going into details of the review of the situation of things read as follows:-

“- - - this year the rogue state of North Korea successfully tested a nuclear bomb. Unless they are stopped in the next couple of years the Revolutionary Islamic Republic of Iran will join them. Following the nuclearisation of Iran every country in that region from the North African States all the way over to the Gulf will be setting up nuclear programmes or buying nukes - - - from networks. So as the most dangerous region in the world goes nuclear what does our Government decide to do?”

Well, what can it do!? But the media comment is to criticise the British Government for reducing the number of its Trident submarines, that are maintained as having the ability to carry counter protective nuclear devices. “We need a nuclear defence” exclaims the media.

Looking at the situation in the Middle-East we find that Islam has been testing in its arms developments long-range missiles. A recent test-fired device has been called the Shahab-3; there have also been a number of Sajjil rockets. These have a range of 1,250 miles and one media lament stated they are missiles capable of hitting the land of Israel.

One media comment suggested that:-

“The tests (are) aimed at showing the world Iran is ready for any military threat - - -. The surface-to-surface missiles could deliver a warhead to any regional target - - - such as U.S. bases in the Gulf.

- - - An Iranian television programme showed a missile soaring into the sky in a desert-like terrain, to shouts of Allahu Akbar (God is great).”

One news comment gave information of Iran building second uranium enrichment plant. Iran claimed this development is for

power generation. However the question could be raised is, that necessary for the power of a country which has so many oil-wells?

So perilous times have come, as never before, and press unease is being voiced. We will quote an example of the degree of the troubled thinking:-

“There’s no response yet from the ayatollahs - - - but they seem unlikely to scale back their millenarian expansionist race for the bomb - - -. The fact is that the international kudos which nuclear weapons bring is seen by failing States, and ambitious rogue States as a short-cut to join the big boys’ club. Take the example of North Korea. It cannot provide the most basic standards of living for its own people. But by aping the nuclear powers its leaders believe that they can bypass all those tedious interim stages of getting a functioning economy - - - for its citizens and go straight to the top table by virtue of its nuclear arsenal - - -. This temptation will exist as long as nuclear weaponry exists and that means the most important aim must be to prevent nuclear weapons spreading any further - - - we are going to have to live with managing nuclear proliferation.- - -”

Such comments as these highlight a very dangerous time. With the development of terrorism where would that lead if a terrorist Organisation got a nuclear device? A recent news report said, “a nuclear scientist, arrested by French anti—terror police, admitted links with a terrorist group. He confessed to contacts with fanatics in North Africa. British MI5 agents investigated his visit to the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in Oxfordshire in 2004. As this world picture of such things is reviewed, surely thoughtful minds will feel concerned about this trend. It is a great increase in knowledge, but with such learning comes the threat of great harm to the welfare of mankind. What a sign for those of The Faith, who look to Christ for the comforting hope of Truth. That He is “The Saviour” of the world which is in such great need of Heavenly saving care. It takes on an even more powerful meaning! So comes to us the comforting words of the Spirit, we are:-

“Looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ”

Titus 2:13.

## NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR JANUARY 2010

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

Sunday: Breaking of Bread 11:30 am

Sunday Afternoon Class: 1:45 pm

Midweek Bible Class: Forestville, Hamburg & Fredonia

Every Third Week: Revelation Study

We are grateful for the visit of our Sister Francis and for her safe return to our brethren in Manchester. The fellowship allowed, strengthened the bonds of love shared within the household of faith.

Our monthly mailings continue with encouraging requests for information on God's plan for this earth. With the world engrossed in uncertainty and perplexity, only God's word can ease the anxiety felt and provide an understanding of what the future holds.

M.C.S.

### MANCHESTER

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 a.m.

Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00 p.m.

Another year now comes along. What will this year bring? In the wonderful mercy of our Heavenly Father, the Ecclesia is allowed to continue in this place. What a merciful provision for Faith is given from Heaven in the Biblical Word which is the Truth.

How grateful we feel for our Brethren and Sisters in the United States who "come alongside" as helpers, as we seek to hold fast to "the way" into which our Lord has brought us. As enquiries continue for this, our Magazine, we are encouraged in the work which God has brought us to.

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For more information or to read our literature, log onto:

[www.remnantofchristsecclesia.com](http://www.remnantofchristsecclesia.com)