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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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All Communications

D. Lancaster
227 Moston Lane East
New Moston
Manchester M40 3HY
England

M. C. Steiger
836 King Road
Forestville
New York 14062
U.S.A.

AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD

“VIRTUE HAD GONE OUT OF HIM”

In our recent reading, we have found, in just a few verses, help in our daily living. In Mark chapter 5, there is the record of a woman who had an issue of blood for twelve years, and could not find help from physicians, “was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse.” When she heard of Jesus, she:

“... came in the press behind, and touched his garment.
For she said, if I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.
And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up;
and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague.”
Mark 5:27-29.

For those twelve years of that plague, she would have been outside the environment!

As she heard of Jesus’ healing, she joined the ones who thronged Jesus seeking help. She was behind Jesus, and did not ask for His healing; but in faith, believing in Jesus’ power to heal, she merely touched his garment and immediately was made whole, healed. In order to touch Jesus’ clothes, she would have had to reach out, trusting that she thus could be made whole.

Perhaps she knew of the power of Jesus, as we read in Matthew concerning those who were diseased:

“... when the men of that place had knowledge of him, they sent out into all that country round about, and brought unto him all that were diseased;
And besought him, that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole.”
Matthew 14:35-36.

These were brought to touch the hem of His garment; but she came in faith, believing in Jesus’ power to heal her twelve-year-long plague. When she did touch the hem of Jesus’ garment and was healed:

“... Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes?”
Mark 5.30.

Virtue also is used as power, strength, might, wonderful work. Jesus felt the power or ability to heal - the power of the Holy Spirit leaving him, and:

“... she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague.”
Mark 5:29.

She must have greatly rejoiced at the power of Jesus in removing the long existing plague! Why, we might ask, did she in faith touch the hem of Jesus' garment (as recorded in Matthew 9:20), in belief that Jesus could heal her plague? Jesus was a Jew, and therefore at this point in His life was under the law. The law required by God that Moses:

“Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribband of blue:

And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the LORD, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a whoring:

That ye may remember and do all my commandments, and be holy unto your God.

I am the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: I am the LORD your God.”

Numbers 15:38-41.

Why was there the “ribband of blue” in the fringes of their garments? To remind them of God's commandments, to keep them, do them, and “be holy unto your God.” The ribband would be a reminder as one put on his clothes; it could be seen through the daytime, and again when one took off his clothes when going to bed. In so doing, one's heart would not be after one's own desires, but after God's heart, fastening one's eyes upon God - all in remembrance. Jesus, being a Jew, would have this “ribband of blue” in the fringes of his garments, helping Him to remember God's purpose. He was the only One who never failed nor sinned but always kept in His heart what God required one to do. This law also helps regarding a fringe:

“Thou shalt make thee fringes upon the four quarters of thy vesture, where with thou coverest thyself.”

Deuteronomy 22:12.

The fringes are ever there - each day reminding that one's heart and eyes are to be focused upon God, not self.

In the time of Jesus, the Pharisees had fringes, but did not do what they should, remembering rather in all their work:

“... they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments.”

Matthew 23:5.

They so worked to exalt themselves rather than glorify God. They had no virtue, power, or might to heal.

The Lord Jesus, using the virtue, the power of God, healed many who came seeking help:

“And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all.” Luke 6:19.

To be healed, the multitude had to touch Jesus. In order to touch Him, they had to reach forth in faith, believing that Jesus could and would heal them, who had the power of God.

When the one with the plague for twelve years touched Jesus, He:

“... turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes.”

Mark 5:30.

Jesus immediately knew someone had touched His garment and had been healed, as virtue had gone out of Him:

“... His disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing.

But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her (virtue), came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth.”

Mark 5:31-33.

She knew she was healed, feeling the great power of Jesus that had made her whole. She greatly rejoiced, acknowledging the great mercy she felt. Jesus responded to her gratitude and faith:

“... Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.” Mark 5:34.

She had the faith and trust which caused her to reach out and touch Jesus! In order to touch, one must be close by; for if distant, she could not have reached out to Him. Indeed, she would go forth in peace and follow Jesus, looking each day upon her garments and the “ribband of blue” in the fringes. She would strive to glorify God, in the hope of being among those who will be found righteous at the judgment seat of the Lord Jesus, when the kingdom of God will be established.

The prophet Zechariah spoke the word of God:

“Thus saith the LORD of hosts; it shall yet come to pass that there shall come people, and the inhabitants of many cities:

And the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts. I will go also.

Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days, it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.” Zechariah 8:20-23.

This is our hope, our prayer, our determination! Let us stay close to Jesus, so that we can reach out and “take hold of the skirt of Him that is a Jew.” And say: I will strive to go with Jesus, as we have not only heard Him, but have touched His skirt - a reminder today to keep His commandments and covenant, to do them, to go in peace, and be whole.

Let us remember that the “ribband of blue” is always there, IF we look, remember, and believe that “God is with you.”

J.A.DeF.

FOLLOW ME

We know from the record of Jesus' ministry, that no matter what He did or said, there were constant objections from the scribes and Pharisees who gathered with the multitude to hear Him. The same is seen from our recent readings in Mark chapter 2 when Jesus called Matthew to follow Him:

“And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the receipt of custom, and said unto him, Follow me. And he arose and followed him.

And it came to pass, that as Jesus sat at meat in his house, many publicans and sinners sat also together with Jesus and his disciples: for there were many, and they followed him.

And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners? When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them. They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

Mark 2:14-17.

Matthew Levi, was a publican - a Jew who was paid by the Romans to collect taxes from his own people. Being therefore in the employ of the occupying Romans, publicans were thought of by some, to be traitors to the nation of Israel, and held in low esteem.

This thinking was shared by the scribes and Pharisees, as seen from this reference in Mark chapter 2. They viewed themselves as righteous, being devoted followers of the letter of the Law, and would not taint themselves by associating with those they deemed as sinners or publicans. They kept the Law's many ordinances, sacrifices and feast days with rigid discipline, but were so steeped in the minutiae of the Law, they overlooked the spirit of mercy and love taught therein. Had they mercy and love for their fellow man, would they think of themselves as superior while looking down in contempt upon others? In answering this same question in Matthew, added help is given by the Lord Jesus:

“But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”
Matthew 9:13.

This added wisdom given by the Lord Jesus, teaches that all are sinners and any sacrifice brought for atonement would not be acceptable if it was not given in a spirit of humility.

It is in God’s great mercy and kindness that He provided an escape from the curse of sin and death, through the blood shed by His Son. The recognition of this mercy was displayed when a sinner brought a sacrifice - its blood to be shed (as a type of Christ), instead of requiring the rightful death of the transgressor. This same thinking was taught throughout the law and prophets:

“To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? Saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats.”

Isaiah 1:11.

“For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”

Psalms 51:16-17.

The scribes and Pharisees were those schooled in the Law and who were to teach it to the people. Because they dwelt on following the Law to the “letter”, they overlooked the spirit of love and mercy seen therein that they should have reflected in their own living. They also failed to see their own need of repentance for they were sinners like all others.

In another instance, the scribes and Pharisees approached Jesus, in their usual spirit of contention, to ask why His disciples did not fast, while others did. To fast was to deny oneself food or drink for a certain period of time in order to afflict the flesh and center the mind on God’s word - cutting out all outside distractions. They were implying that Jesus’ disciples were not as holy or devout as others. His reply was a sharp rebuke to their way of thinking:

“... Can the children of the bridechamber fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast.

But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then shall they fast in those days.”

Mark 2:19-20.

While the bridegroom was with them, they would rejoice, as is customary at a wedding - this was not the time for sorrow or fasting. They were daily in His presence, learning God’s word and learning how to apply its spirit in their living, and receiving this new revelation, they were filled with joy and gratitude.

The Lord Jesus goes on in the next few verses to amplify this thought:

“No man also seweth a piece of new cloth on an old garment: else the new piece that filled it up taketh away from the old, and the rent is made worse.

And no man putteth new wine into old bottles: else the new wine doth burst the bottles, and the wine is spilled, and the bottles will be marred: but new wine must be put into new bottles.”

Mark 2:21-22.

No one in a practical sense would be so foolish to do either. Likewise, it was contrary to fast while the Lord Jesus was in their presence, for being the Messiah, He was the source of their joy and hope for life eternal. He was the new covenant, bringing life and hope to all who believed on Him - something the “old” could not do without a spiritual perception of His sacrifice throughout its precepts. When he was taken from them, then would come a time to mourn His absence and fast while they waited for His return.

What sadness He must have suffered to see how few received His words with hope and gladness. He was the long-awaited Messiah and yet His teachings were met with doubt, cynicism and stubbornness, not perceiving the liberation He brought. It was instead the sinners and publicans, who understanding their need for redemption received His word with joy.

Many of the prophets of old encountered objections to their teaching, and today we also see few who seek His word. Why? Because the flesh questions God's word, resisting anything that impedes its own journey along the broad and easy way.

When Jesus approached Matthew the publican with an invitation to "follow Him", he immediately left what he was doing. Did he do so grudgingly? No, he did so in joy, preparing a feast at his home and inviting his friends to share in his good fortune, while also giving many a chance to hear the words of Jesus and to be converted:

"And it came to pass, that, as Jesus sat at meat in his house, many publicans and sinners sat also together with Jesus and his disciples: for there were many, and they followed him." Mark 2:15.

Do we realize how much we are in need of healing? Failure to do so will result in a callousness of mind like the scribes and Pharisees. We will perhaps come to obey God's precepts from rote and habit, without the spirit of love, mercy and gratitude which should infuse our every thought and deed. To think of the mercy daily afforded us by our loving Father, how could we strive to do less?

M.C.S.

TO MODERNISE

Paul strongly exhorted Titus:

“--- Speak thou the things which become sound doctrine.”
Titus 2:1.

A recent media report gave out blasphemous words of a spokesperson’s comments for Christendom. We will quote some of them:

“He said (the Vicar) the church had to modernise, even if it meant using language that could raise eyebrows ---.”

After admitting using a swear word when engaged in a road rage incident, he said:-

“--- The Church must be more streetwise and use language most people use today. --- ”

“The reality is that he (Jesus) was poor, lacked any real education and did not fraternise with Pharisees. ---

People today would probably be quite shocked at the language he used at that time.---”

This (so-called) church leader, went on to say the church today needs to keep up with the trends in language:-

“--- For too long the church has carried around this image of being something fluffy and quaint when in reality it is gritty and real AND SWEARING is part of that.”

This media report commented on the reaction of other church leaders, that they:-

“--- stopped short of endorsing swearing by clergymen, (going on to say)-

An inner city deprived parish needs a very different approach from someone ministering in a very rural area. Either situation though may need strong words occasionally, and while we would not encourage clergy to swear, we need to remember that they are only human too.”

We will ourselves conclude these comments by asking the question, Where is true veneration of Christ in these words of people who profess to speak for Jesus the Holy Lamb of God!?

A BIBLE CLASS

“NEITHER BE YE OF DOUBTFUL MIND”

Luke 12:29

The Lord Jesus sent His disciples out to preach the gospel, and encouraged them to be of good faith, not doubtful; but to put their trust in God’s providing food, strength, and courage:

“... I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. And seek not ye what ye shall eat or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind.

For all these things do the nations of the world seek after; and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Luke 12:22,29-31.

Jesus encouraged His disciples to put aside any thoughts of food, drink, or clothing - setting their minds on the work of preaching the gospel. In worrying about fleshly things, they could be wavering in thoughts, rather than putting all their efforts into the work at hand.

James warned concerning the work of his brethren:

“... Let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire wanting nothing.

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

But let him ask in faith nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

For let not that man (who wavereth) think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”

James 1:4-8.

When one’s mind and heart are moved by faith, there will be no wavering or doubting, but one’s strength and efforts will be in witnessing to God’s word.

Paul wrote to his Ephesian brethren:

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel.”
Ephesians 6:10,18-19.

With God’s help, we will not doubt and waver, but focus our minds on Him.

David was one who did not doubt or waver, as he went forth against Goliath, not with the armor of Saul, but armed with faith in God’s power:

“... Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.

This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand, and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

And all the assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD’S, and he will give you into our hands.”
I Samuel 17:45-47.

David did not have a doubtful mind, but relied upon the power and strength of God. David’s spirit would grow in faith, as he called upon the LORD:

“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 19:14.

Peter, when he saw Jesus walking upon the water, said:

“... Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and

beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.
And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?" Matthew 14:28-31.

Peter sought Jesus' power, but with the strong wind, he doubted his ability to walk on the water. He lost his faith; he doubted Jesus' word to him, "Come." He would have perished had not Jesus "stretched forth His hand, and caught him," as Peter cried out: "Lord, save me."

Paul further helps us as he spoke to his Hebrew brethren:

"Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.
Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)
And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:
Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Hebrews 10:22-25.

If we cry out in faith, not doubting God's covenant, we will be helped not to be doubtful or wavering:

"But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.
Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Luke 12:31-32.

This is our hope - to be among those who will hear Jesus' words:

"... Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you (those not doubting) from the foundation of the world" Matthew 25:34.

J.A.DeF.

BLOOD AND ATONEMENT

The concept of atonement and blood go together as an important aspect of God's divine plan for man - a plan which needs understanding and a spiritually perceptive mind to fully comprehend.

The meaning of the word "atonement" comes from a prime root meaning, "to cover" (specifically with bitumen), to forgive, pacify, pitch, purge and reconcile.

As in all of God's teachings, there is a shadow from the past, which was to convey the mind forward and teach of the completed picture. This constant repetition using type or shadow was given in His mercy, that His children might learn the way unto salvation.

The eternal plan for mankind was taught from the very beginning after the paradise God had created for Adam and Eve was marred through their failure. When found in sin, they tried to reconcile themselves with God by covering their sinful flesh by making themselves aprons of fig leaves. Their solution however fell short of what God required for reconciliation and forgiveness:

"Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them."

Genesis 3:21.

In a practical sense, animal skins covered the flesh as well as fig leaves did, however, for those skins to be obtained, blood had to be shed - an animal had to die. This was the important lesson to be learned - that atonement for sin could not be effected unless blood was shed. To the perceiving mind, this pointed forward to the One whose blood would be shed as a covering for man's sin.

Adam and Eve were cast out of the garden, their lives no longer eternal, but subject to death because of their sin. They would teach this important precept of atonement to their children., and as they grew to an age of responsibility, their sons Cain and Abel also brought an offering to make atonement:

“And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering; But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect.”
Genesis 4:3-5.

Abel’s sacrifice was accepted by God for he understood the concept that blood must be shed in order for sin to be covered. Cain either did not understand or was negligent to do what he knew was acceptable. In mercy he was given a second chance to make amends, yet his angry spirit refused to submit and do what God required:

“And Cain was very wroth and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? And why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest 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 4:5-7.

This important concept - the shedding of blood, would be passed down through Adam’s family throughout the generations of those who desired to be called by His name.

Noah was the next who found favor or grace with God because he followed the Lord in a spirit of obedience, while living surrounded by those who did not seek to please God, but their own fleshly thinking. As the means of his deliverance, God gave Noah the plans to build an ark to save from the flood, any who would heed God’s word and the animals to repopulate the world after the flood:

“And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; but man, and beast, and the

creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD:"

Genesis 6:5-8.

All who entered this ark would be safe from the floodwaters - it was to be their salvation and escape from death. Made from wood, it was painted within and without with pitch which sealed the wood making it watertight. This word "pitch" comes from the same prime root of the word for "atonement". This ark was Christ - the means of atonement, who would save His people from death.

Two of every unclean animal was taken into the ark to preserve life, while seven of every clean beast was gathered in order to have sufficient to offer sacrifices to God. Again, blood was shed to make atonement and God accepted their offerings because they did so with discernment, understanding what they represented. After the floodwaters had subsided, we are told:

"..Noah builded an altar unto the LORD: and took of every clean beast and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth: neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

Genesis 8:20-22.

As the thread of Truth continues, we read of Abram, called out of Ur of the Chaldees to travel to a land that God would show him. He left with his household, travelling in faith not knowing his destination, believing in God's promise of care and guidance in return for his obedience. As he travelled God appeared unto Abram and said,

"Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him. And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel,

and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD. And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south.” Genesis 12:7-9.

Abram built an altar to offer burnt sacrifices in thanksgiving to God for his mercy and care. By building an altar he displayed an understanding for the need of blood to be shed and offered, in order to make reconciliation between God and man.

Continuing the record of God’s people after Abraham, Israel was led from their land into Egypt to survive a time of famine. While there they witnessed firsthand God’s power and their deliverance from Egypt’s bondage in the plagues sent by God through Moses and Aaron. Most important was the last plague of “Passover”, where the Lord went through the land to slay the firstborn of all those who did not heed His instructions to slay a lamb and paint its blood on their door posts:

“Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and said unto them, Draw out and take you a lamb according to your families, and kill the Passover.

And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the bason, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the bason; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning.

For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians, and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.” Exodus 12:21-23.

Christ was to be seen by the faithful as this Passover Lamb - a male without blemish, whose blood was to be shed and painted as a mark on their houses. Those who abode in that house, covered by the protection of that blood, were spared the death of their firstborn. The shadow seen here was of God’s firstborn Son, One without fault or blemish, whose blood would be shed for His people

that they may have atonement and access to the promise of salvation promised by the Father.

After Israel's deliverance from Egypt, they were led to the wilderness by Moses and received the Law of God, that they might walk acceptably before Him. Along with all matters of practical life, the sacrifices required to be offered for sin were outlined clearly for their understanding. Yet, if they did not perceive that these sacrifices and the shedding of blood, pointed forward to their Messiah, the Mediator who would take their prayers to God, their offerings were of no effect. The blood of bulls, lambs and goats were ineffectual without a true understanding of what they represented. Speaking of Christ, the perfection and type of these sacrifices under the Law, Paul wrote:

“Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”

Hebrews 9:12-14.

Atonement or forgiveness can only be granted by the grace of God. As flesh, we fail and further distance ourselves from God's mercy. It is only through the blood of Christ - through belief in His name and walking after His example, that reconciliation can be achieved with the Almighty.

God knew that man could not redeem himself of his sinful flesh, and in love established the basis of reconciliation through His Son's death. The animal sacrifices required under the Law, were only a type to bring the mind of the perceiving to a true understanding, that salvation was only possible through the death of Christ - His blood shed once as a covering for sin for all who believe on Him.

M.C.S.

SIGNS OF HIS COMING

“Perilous times shall come.”

2 Timothy 3:1

What a warning about moral deterioration which is to be “- - in the last days” do we get in the holy scriptures! May we herewith quote some of the details that give a dire warning, of what was to come about:-

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good. Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God. Having a form of godliness - - -.”
2 Timothy 3:1-5.

We will give some media comments, made recently by a well known individual who is a star of the entertainment world; we are struck by a confession of the lamentable state of morality:

“- - - there’s no denying that the current generation of young people are more sexually active than their parents and grandparents ever were. Teenage pregnancy rates remain worryingly high while other research has revealed that todays 16 to 24-year-olds have already had an average of nine sexual partners. One friend told me that her children regarded their teenage years as the chance to “try each other out” before they settled down with a regular boy friend or girl friend.- - -

Hardly a week seems to go by without someone selling a kiss-and-tell story about a famous name - - - they’ve slept with.- - - a U.S. study - - - found that teenagers - - -filled with tracks containing sexual lyrics tended to start having sex sooner than those who preferred other music. One 18-year old girl told me ‘There’s a real perception among young women that having sex with lots of people is the done thing!’”

The looseness of such moral behaviour indeed is lamentable! The media commentator making such confession, went on to say how they worried about their own family circumstances. Their worry was “with teenage children I’m pleased (the entertainment star) has raised the issue. - - - As a result of PSHE (personel, social and health education) lessons at school my son and daughter are far more clued up about sex contraception, alcohol and drugs than I ever was but I still worry they’ll feel under pressure to have sex.” “Having a boyfriend can seem like a badge of honour - something that those they admire and look up to have and they want to be in this particular club. They want to prove they’re ‘normal’ and as popular and attractive as other girls, - - - girls need to be supported to resist the pressure to measure their popularity according to whether they have a boyfriend or not. It is important to help them appreciate their own qualities and how they owe it to themselves to wait for the right person and the right time.”

As we consider what has been so greatly admitted, oh! what a fulfilment!! But scripture makes it very clear that there is to be an ultimate heavenly solution, to bring about true happiness and the joy of righteousness. So we will close with what will be the declaration, at the appropriate time, of those who will rejoice at the heavenly overcoming of the resistance to what is good and right:

“- - - they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou king of saints. - - - all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.”

Revelation 15:3-4.

NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR OCTOBER 2010

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

Sunday: Breaking of Bread 11:30 am

Thursday: Bible Class 3:30pm; Forestville, Hamburg & Fredonia

Every Third Week: Revelation Study

After a remarkable summer season and its beautiful weather, we look forward to the autumn in anticipation of the fall colors and autumn harvest, reminding us of God's handiwork. What a blessing it is to see God's power and know His ultimate plan for this earth, and are reminded of David's sentiments in the Psalms: "What is man, that thou art mindful of him?" (Psalm 8:4)

M.C.S.

MANCHESTER

Sundays: Breaking of Bread 11.00 a.m.

Thursdays: Bible Class 2.00 p.m.

In God's grace we are allowed to continue as an Ecclesia. What a wonderful blessing this is, to have such a closeness to our Lord Jesus Christ.

In such a position, we are a witness to any who may have "ears to hear", at a time when so many fail in a true perception of the holiness of the Son of God.

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

www.remnantofchristsecclesia.com