

JANUARY 2012

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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”

AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD

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AND THE INHABITANTS SHALL NOT SAY, I AM SICK

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AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD

“RIGHTEOUSNESS”

During the past week, we have concluded reading the book of the prophet Isaiah. It has taken 54 days (from August to October) to do so. His work was:

“The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.” Isaiah 1:1

Of these four kings, a period of 62 years, only one was faithful – Hezekiah – through the work of Isaiah. The prophet warned Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah:

“If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

How is the faithful city (Jerusalem) become an harlot! it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers.

The silver is become dross, thy wine mixed with water:

The princes are rebellious and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them.

Therefore saith the LORD, the LORD of hosts, the mighty One of Israel, Ah, I will ease me of mine adversaries, and avenge me of mine enemies:

And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away the dross, and take away the tin:

And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city.

Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness.”

Isaiah 1:19-27

Isaiah prophesied the way Jerusalem and the twelve tribes of Israel could be, under God’s mercy and judgment. Only Hezekiah

listened, while Uzziah, Jotham and Ahaz failed to live in righteousness. Hezekiah began his reign over Judah, as recorded:

“... Hezekiah the son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign. Twenty and five years old was he when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem.... And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that David his father did.” II Kings 18:1-3

Hezekiah was right in God’s sight, and this resulted in Jerusalem’s being called: “The city of righteousness, the faithful city”; and was redeemed along with her converts with righteousness.

The first use of the word righteousness was spoken to Abram concerning his lack of a son:

“... Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

And he (Abram) believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.” Genesis 15:5-6

Abram had obeyed the Almighty:

“... Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing;

And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; ... and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.” Genesis 12:1-4

At an old age, Abram left Haran, in obedience to God’s revealing His righteousness unto him.

What is righteousness? It is virtue, justice, quietness, right, obedience – as Isaiah wrote:

“Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment.

Then judgment shall dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness remain in the fruitful field.

And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance for ever.

And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.”

Isaiah 32:1,16-18

The Almighty spoke to Isaiah:

“I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.

Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation; let righteousness spring up together; I the LORD have created it.

I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain: I the LORD speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.”

Isaiah 45:7-8,19

David was one who called upon the LORD, in his determination to live in righteousness: yet failed at times, as all men have done. He sought God’s help:

“Deliver me in thy righteousness, and cause me to escape: incline thine ear unto me, and save me.

Be thou my strong habitation, whereunto I may continually resort: thou hast given commandment to save me; for thou art my rock and my fortress.

My mouth shall show forth thy righteousness and thy salvation all the day; for I know not the number thereof.

I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD: I will make mention of thy righteousness, even thine only.”

Psalms 71:2-3,15-16

David failed in the matter of Bath-sheba, and would have been stoned according to the law; but he quickly repented:

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

He found redemption through repentance, and the great mercy and grace of God.

All sons of men since Adam and Eve have failed, except the Lord Jesus, the Son of man as well as the Son of God. When Jesus was 30 years old, he came to John the Baptist to be baptized:

“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.

And Jesus, when he was baptized, 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 3:14-17

Jesus immediately was tested in the wilderness, to see if He would be righteous in regard to the Spirit which He had received. Would He use the Spirit as He fasted for 40 days? His fleshly mind was tempted. Would he command stones to be made into bread? Jesus’ response was:

“... It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

Matthew 4:4

Jesus was further tempted, and continued to say: “... It is written” – the instruction of God – thus fulfilling all righteousness.

Jesus continued his 3½ years of preaching God’s righteousness. For example:

“... he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.” Luke 18:9-10

The Pharisee prayed to God, saying how he was not like other

men, even as this publican: that he fasted twice a week, and gave tithes; all this was felt to be righteous. The publican stood afar off, and did not lift up his eyes, but smote his breast, saying, "God be merciful to me a sinner." The Pharisee exalted himself, but was abased – not righteous! The publican who humbled himself would be exalted, as he sought to be righteous in the Almighty's sight.

Jesus himself spent his 3½ years of obedience to God in preaching the gospel, until the end of his life, when He cried out, as He hung on the cross:

"... It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the spirit."
John 19:30

The Lord Jesus fulfilled all righteousness, as He was determined to do at His baptism, never failing, always obedient to God's word. He will return to gather all those responsible to judgment. Those who have striven to fulfill His righteousness will be at His right hand, to become immortal kings and priests in the kingdom of 1000 years. Those at His left hand will be turned away to the eternal lake of fire, not having lived in righteousness.

Let us, brethren and sisters, take hold of the Bible, the word of God, and determine to grow in righteousness, like those who had oil in their lamps. The coming of the Bridegroom draws near, who will open the door to enter into the marriage:

"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready (prepared).

And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints."
Revelation 19:7-8

J.A.DeF.

THE PEACE OF GOD

In our recent portions from Luke we read as the Lord Jesus questions His disciples:

“Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay: but rather division:” Luke 12:51

These words may seem to be a contradiction, for we know of the prophecy in Isaiah that speaks of Jesus as the means of peace:

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6

Also we read in Thessalonians from Paul of the connection of the Lord Jesus with peace:

“Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all.”
II Thessalonians 3:16

And from the first chapter of Luke, Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist, prophesied of the Messiah’s work as the One to bring peace:

“To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”
Luke 1:79

Speaking on this same subject of peace, the Lord Jesus says likewise in Matthew:

“Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

And a man’s foes shall be they of his own household.

He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.”
Matthew 10:34-38

This apparent conflict between the “Prince of Peace” and He who comes with a sword, are two divergent views but are reconciled in the work of the Lord Jesus - for giving and taking peace are but different phases of His work.

The very last phase of the Lord Jesus’ work as Messiah and Savior is to bring peace to all the earth through His righteous reign in the Kingdom age. Yet before this can be accomplished, He will, along with His Saints, bring a sword to slay in judgment all those who will not accept Him or the gospel message they preach. Only those who receive the gospel message and accept the reign of Christ and His Saints will enjoy the blessings and bounty of a peaceful world as His subjects.

As Joshua brought the children of Israel from bondage in Egypt into the Promised Land, he called for them to:

“...choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”
Joshua 24:15

The worldwide inhabitants of the earth will have the same decision to make at Christ’s return. Only when all fleshly disobedience and false teaching has been destroyed, will peace reign supreme in the Kingdom of God on earth, ruled by the Lord Jesus Christ and His Saints.

Christ’s work can make peace or create division - all predicated upon one’s allegiance to Him. The world today does not really know Christ and His teachings and therefore knows no peace. Yet a time will come when all will be taught the gospel message, making them responsible to choose both life and peace or death. Those who obey and heed His word will be grateful subjects in the Kingdom age knowing His mercy and care, while those who refuse to obey, will take on the mark of the beast – which identifies them as Christ’s enemies destined for death.

His people today seek His peace and help to control their own fleshly nature as did He - those fleshly characteristics that cause disobedience, division and dishonor in His body as Paul explains in writing to his brethren in Ephesus:

“For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace.”

Ephesians 2:14-15

The Ephesians were not born as Jews but Gentiles outside of the household of faith, who had been taught the gospel message through Paul and other apostles and who through the blood of Christ had become adopted into the salvation once known only to Israel:

“And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;”

Ephesians 2:16-19

Paul though himself born a Jew, did not possess the spirit, for being one under the Law he did not recognize Jesus as the Christ and he went about with misapplied zeal persecuting both Jews and Gentiles who desired to be joined to Him. But when the Spirit spoke to him on the way to Damascus, he saw the error of his ways - that he was indeed persecuting the Son of God and His followers, and was quick to repent, devoting his remaining years to the preaching of that gospel and serving the needs of Christ’s household.

To these members he further writes in encouragement:

“Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:4-7

When Adam and Eve failed in the garden to obey God, the peace between God and man was broken. Their fleshly thinking created this breach through disobedience. In mercy, God clothed them with the skins of animals, teaching them that only through the shedding of blood could reconciliation be made for sin and peace restored. We who live after the birth of the Lord Jesus, are privileged to know Jesus Christ as this means of reconciliation and peace.

In the last hours before His crucifixion, the Lord Jesus warned His disciples that they too would know suffering and persecution from the world:

"Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me. These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16:32-33

This is the same world that the Lord Jesus will overcome in finality when He returns. The peace He brings with Him comes for those who belong to Him and for those who will in the future bow in reverence to Him and the Father, as grateful subjects of His realm. How grateful we should be to have the knowledge of God's purpose with this earth and to know His peace in our lives today as we struggle to overcome and look forward in hope to the all encompassing peace that will overflow the world at His coming.

M.C.S.

“AND THE INHABITANTS SHALL NOT SAY, I AM SICK”

Isaiah 33:24

This scriptural prophecy is speaking of the coming of a wonderful time of healing. The assurance of these words is that:

“...the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance for ever.”

Isaiah 32:17

When sickness is no more, how blessed will be this world of men!

Mankind, at this present time, has been striving greatly to triumph over disease. To a degree people's health has been improved but medical need remains persistent. Great sums of money have been expended and medical knowledge has increased, nevertheless illness is a constant. Sickness cannot be overcome, and this underlines the fact that only the eventual coming of the Kingdom of God will bring the true healing. The continued presence of illness in many forms, for all the medical endeavours in combating these, has again been prominently referred to by the media. We will herewith quote some startling details:

“Malaria – the biggest killer of children worldwide – is on the ‘cusp’ of being controlled, it was claimed –

An experimental vaccine halved the risk of children getting malaria in a major clinical trial in seven African countries...results...showed that vaccine reduced the risk of clinical malaria...but stressed the vaccine was no quick fix...saying, ‘I think this is going to contribute to the control of malaria rather than wiping it out.’”

At the time of making such comments the press gave some extraordinary figures, saying **MALARIA KILLS ABOUT 3000 CHILDREN EVERY DAY.**

The media, reporting on some water borne maladies, had the following to declare:

“Trendy new fish pedicures – where tiny, toothless carp nibble away dead skin – could spread infection and disease, experts warned - People with weak immune systems or conditions including diabetes and psoriasis are advised

not to use it...The Health Protection Agency...issued guidance after it found fish tank water with micro organisms...it said, 'it's important that a thorough foot examination is performed to make sure there are no cuts, grazes or skin conditions that could spread infection"

So, as some diseases are suppressed, other diseases arise. And the fact is, that success over disease will not be achieved until the Kingdom of God is established, as declared in the promise from the Father in Heaven.

A BIBLE CLASS

"CALLED, CHOSEN, AND FAITHFUL"

Revelation 17:14

From the time of Adam and Eve, their two sons, Cain (the older) and Abel served God, and brought a sacrifice. God had respect unto Abel's sacrifice, but did not respect Cain's, who was very angry; yet God gave him an opportunity to change:

"If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door..." Genesis 4:7

Cain did not do well, and was not chosen, but rather slew Abel in his wrath. This was the beginning of God's calling and choosing those who do well.

At the time of Jesus:

"... when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits..." Matthew 10:1

Of the twelve called, Judas Iscariot betrayed Him. Obviously he was called, but was not chosen, as the other disciples were. They will be with Jesus, among the true followers, when:

"... He (Jesus) is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful."

Revelation 17:14

Paul was called when he was on the way to Damascus to destroy those who believed in Jesus' purpose. A light from heaven

blinded him, and he heard a voice, saying unto him:

“... Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.”

Acts 9:4-6

Indeed, Paul was called to be:

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

For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name’s sake.”

Acts 9:15-16

Paul spent the rest of his life having been called, chosen, and was found faithful.

Peter was one of those called and chosen apostles, yet denied Jesus three times, and wept bitterly as Jesus looked upon him. Peter gave the rest of his life in service:

“Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.”

II Peter 1:14

Jesus spoke to the apostle John:

“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.”

John 15:16,19

There are only two ways: one of the world, living according to the flesh; or living by the Spirit.

David was one called out of the world by Samuel’s seeking a faithful king, as Saul had been rejected by God for his disobedience. Samuel looked upon Jesse’s seven sons, but none of them was acceptable to God. David, Jesse’s youngest son, was tending the sheep, and was called before Samuel:

“... And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he.

Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the

midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward.” I Samuel 16:12-13

David was called and chosen. He served God in obedience as “... a man after His (God’s) own heart.” He failed at times through fleshly thinking, but he quickly repented:

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

He revealed a humble and contrite spirit, and knew God’s mercy and forgiveness; thus David continued to be called and chosen.

From the time of Abel, there have been those who have striven to keep their trust in God, and who will be among those, at the time of the kingdom, who are “called, and chosen, and faithful” for eternity.

J.A.DeF.

EXAMPLES OF FAITH

Throughout the Lord Jesus’ ministry, it is recorded in many instances where He commended the faith of those He met. So should we too today endeavor to walk faithfully in hope of being commended at His judgment seat. Paul gives the definition of faith in the Book of Hebrews:

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

For by it the elders obtained a good report.”

Hebrews 11:1

This word for “substance” means “support” and gives us the thought of a substrata or what gives strength for what is above it to stand. The word “evidence” as used here gives the idea of conviction – that as a word is spoken, so it will come to pass. Therefore, faith stands under one’s hope with a conviction and strength that although things are not seen, we believe by faith that they will come to pass.

From the Book of Hebrews, many were commended for their efforts to walk faithfully, such as Abel, Enoch and Noah among others. However, one not of Israel was commended by the Lord Jesus as recorded in Luke as an example of faith:

This man was a Centurion in the Roman army. Not only a Gentile but also part of the occupying force, which at the time of the Lord Jesus, ruled Palestine, the land which God's people had inherited. We are told this man had respect for the Jews and their God:

“And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die.

And when he heard of Jesus, he sent unto him the elders of the Jews, beseeching him that he would come and heal his servant.

And when they came to Jesus, they besought him instantly, saying,

That he was worthy for whom he should do this:

For he loveth our nation, and he hath built us a synagogue.”

Luke 7:2-5

This officer in the Roman army asked the Jewish elders to beseech Jesus for help on his behalf. He did so not out of arrogance in a commanding fashion as you might expect from an officer, but because he felt unworthy to approach Jesus himself. Jesus made His way to this soldier's home, but was approached before He arrived by this man's friends saying:

“.. Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof:

Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed.

For I also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.”

Luke 7:6-8

He felt he and his household unworthy to receive the Lord Jesus under their roof, and believed with only a word from Him, his servant would be healed. He showed great belief and humility even though he as a Centurion was a commander over many men

and household servants, and would himself be the recipient of obedience and respect.

After hearing this, the Lord Jesus replied to His followers:

“When Jesus heard these things, he marvelled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.” Luke 7:9

This soldier was not of Israel yet he believed that the Lord Jesus had authority in His work of teaching and healing so that He could heal with but one word. Because of his faith, his servant was healed for we go on to read:

“And they that were sent, returning to the house, found the servant whole that had been sick.” Luke 7:10

In another example from Luke, we read of a woman who was known by others as a sinner and who sought out the Lord Jesus:

“And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee’s house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.” Luke 10:37-38

This woman was known by reputation and those standing by were not pleased that she should come into Jesus’ presence. Yet He did not turn her away but through the Spirit knew of her transgressions and the repentance she was now offering. Her life had been on a wrong path, but through faith she must have recognized Him as the One promised and did all she could to seek forgiveness that she might walk anew. To those listening He said:

“..Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.

My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.

Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.

And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven."

Luke 7:44-48

Further in Luke we read of ten lepers who met the Lord Jesus in his journeying through the countryside and knowing of His power to heal, cried out to Him:

"And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.

And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed."

Luke 17:13-14

Under the law one was to be examined by the priests to determine if any leprosy remained or if one was cured. By healing them, the Lord Jesus sent them on this mission so they could verify He had healed them through God's power.

"And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God,

And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan."

Luke 17:15-16

Only one of the ten men returned to give thanks and glory to God and he was not of the house of Israel, but a Samaritan. Only one that day was truly made whole physically and spiritually:

"And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?

There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.

And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole."

Luke 17:17-18

In another act of healing, a blind man sat by the roadside begging when he perceived a multitude passing – no doubt talking excitedly among themselves. He asked what was happening and

was told that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. Word of Jesus fame as a teacher and healer had spread throughout the country, and upon hearing He was near the blind man began to cry out:

“...Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me.
And they which went before rebuked him, that he should hold his peace: but he cried so much the more, Thou son of David, have mercy on me.”
Luke 18:38-39

Those in the crowd were embarrassed by his loud voice calling out to Jesus to get His attention, and tried to quiet him. But this man was intent, for he believed in faith that Jesus could heal him. Though he were blind, he saw Jesus through the eyes of faith as the greater son of David – the Messiah promised, and was rewarded:

“And Jesus stood, and commanded him to be brought unto him: and when he was come near, he asked him, Saying, What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight.
And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee.
And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, glorifying God: and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God.”
Luke 18:40-43

Those whom Jesus commended, witnessed to the strength of their faith and belief that He was the One sent by God to heal their infirmities. Because of their faith, the Spirit of God worked through Christ on their behalf.

What a testament these examples are to the power of faith in one's living - encouraging us likewise to increase our faith through good works and belief in Him – who is our support and strength.

M.C.S.

SIGNS OF HIS COMING

“Say to them...of fearful heart” Isaiah 35:4

The prophet received a wonderful message from above, for God’s faithful:

“Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; He will come and save you... and the ransomed of the Lord SHALL RETURN, and come to Zion...”
Isaiah 35: 4 & 10

Fear that is in the world was foretold by God’s prophet, and those words have been preserved down the years, even to our time. The world’s media makes such expression and we will now also herewith quote some extracts from our recent media:

“An explosive war game...The world’s biggest bomb: revealed. The Soviets admit to owning a “Doomsday machine” which is capable of destroying all life on Earth and cannot be switched off. When asked; the Soviet ambassador questioned why they haven’t publicised their ownership of this device, sheepishly says “they were going to announce it on Monday but given the current situation that might be too late”.

It seems farcical to think that leaders, scientists and top-brass military types sat around contemplating the swiftest ways to do away with whole populations but they did and, as last night’s alarming documentary proved, they were pretty blasé about it. Amazingly, when nuclear bombs first showed up on the scene, everyone apart from the population of Japan was enthusiastic about them. Two weeks after Hiroshima (the Soviet Leader) ordered (his) scientists to invent their own device.

In 1946 the Americans evacuated the Bikini Atoll in the middle of the Pacific in order to blow up 95 warships and a bunch of goats. As a tribute to the...killing device on the marker...a top fashion designer called his latest beachwear item THE BIKINI...US scientists sank two islands, and a

Japanese fishing boat got affected; and the Bikini Atoll can now have no-one living there."

So fearfulness has appeared in the course of the emergence of these events; and the words of the prophet become particularly pertinent. What a comforting blessing is God's truth. There is still wonderful hope:

"God will come with vengeance, even God with recompence; he will come and save you". Isaiah 35:4

NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR JANUARY 2012

HAMBURG, NEW YORK

Sunday: Breaking of Bread 11:30 am

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

Every Third Week: Revelation Study

As the old year ends and the new year begins, we direct our attention to whether this will be the year of the Lord Jesus' return? Although we do not know the time of this hoped for event, such thoughts should focus our attention to the need for readiness on our part, in order to be found watching and waiting. Our daily spiritual food from God's Word is provided to help and guide us along the path of salvation. How blessed we are to experience the nurture and admonition of God in our struggle to follow the path of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We join our Brethren and Sisters in giving thanks to God for His unspeakable gift.

M.C.S.

MANCHESTER

Sunday: Breaking of Bread 11:30 am

Thursday: Bible Class 2:00 pm;

The time has moved on, and January; New Year; is here again!

Our gracious, Heavenly Father, looks down upon us and our Ecclesia is enabled to continue.

How abundant are the precious provisions of His Holy Word. The world of mankind rejoices in its knowledge, but Heavenly wisdom exceeds all else. In this our Ecclesia, of one Lord Jesus, continues. Oh! How good is our Heavenly Father to us, in what He has given.

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

www.remnantofchristseclesia.com