

AUGUST 2012

A Monthly Magazine issued by

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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SIGNS OF HIS COMING

NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS

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MATTHEW'S CALL

We have recently completed the Gospel According to Matthew -his record while a disciple of the Lord Jesus. It is very unlikely that he took notes during these years, but rather he was given the power of the Holy Spirit to clearly remember the events, which took place, while in Jesus' presence, so that he could record them for our help.

In Matthew chapter 9 we read of his calling:

“And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him. And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples.

And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?

But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick:”

Matthew 9:9-12

It was at Matthew's house that Jesus went to share a meal and talk of the gospel. Matthew was a publican - a Jew who worked for the Romans to collect custom taxes from merchants as they entered the city. His Jewish brethren would hate him because he served the Romans, their occupiers and oppressors. Mark adds more to this incident:

“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.”

Mark 2:14-15

The Pharisees and Scribes were those who thought themselves right in their own eyes, yet here was one, regarded by them as a sinner, who responded immediately to Jesus' call:

“And after these things he went forth, and saw a publican,

named Levi (Matthew), sitting at the receipt of custom: and he said unto him, Follow me.

And he left all, rose up, and followed him.

And Levi made him a great feast in his own house: and there was a great company of publicans and of others that sat down with them.

But their scribes and Pharisees murmured against his disciples, saying, Why do ye eat and drink with publicans and sinners?

And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick.

I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Luke 5:27-32

The Pharisees and Scribes thought themselves righteous because they followed the law, but did so without the love and mercy towards others that it contained. They were sinners before God as are all men - they just would not acknowledge it out of pride. And contrary to the spirit of the law, they despised those who were not Pharisees and avoided their company at all costs. Yet here was Jesus sharing a meal with such people and it amazed the Pharisees.

A publican in the eyes of the Jews was the basest of all occupations. He was despised by those he took custom from and also because he was a Jew working for the Romans. Yet Matthew left his post immediately and followed the Lord Jesus when called, and was given power to heal in Jesus' name as one of His disciples:

"And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease."

Matthew 10:1

Once despised because of his profession, Matthew now had the power of the spirit to heal all diseases and to teach the gospel of Christ and the hope of salvation possible through Jesus' name.

There was another publican called Zacchaeus who was the chief among the publicans and very wealthy - he sought also to see Jesus:

"And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho.

And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich.

And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature.

And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way.

And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house.

And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner."

Luke 19:1-7

Zacchaeus was a man of conscience and when he heard of Jesus' teaching, he must have recognized it as Truth and sought to be joined with Him:

"And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.

And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Luke 19:8-10

Zacchaeus was termed a "sinner" by the Pharisees and Scribes because he was not of their sect. Yet here was a man with a conscience, who recognized Truth in Jesus' teaching and knew his eternal salvation rested with being one with the Lord Jesus. And knowing the Lord Jesus received him, filled him with great joy! Sadly, those who looked down on such people as "sinners" were as sinful themselves as are all men, but their pride hindered their recognition of their perishing state.

Paul was a Pharisee and shared the same opinion of these publicans and others who accepted Jesus as Christ. He made it his life's work to persecute them and bring them bound to the High Priest for judgment. Knowing his heart through the Spirit's power, Jesus knew his zeal could be turned to righteousness if he could but

see the error of his ways. Paul's heart was touched by the vision of the Lord Jesus on his way to Damascus and being repentant, turned his life around to serving the Lord and His followers.

On the surface, Paul's conversion would seem unlikely, yet all things of God are possible, while our own thinking may view it as impossible. His spirit can make things happen that would not naturally occur. Paul reminds us in his letter to the Ephesians of this great gift offered to us:

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
Not of works, lest any man should boast.
For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”
Ephesians 2:8-10

These spiritual powers bestowed upon Matthew and Paul were given by the grace of God. We too today have a knowledge of the gospel which can bring the hope of salvation. However, we are not blessed with the powers they knew to perform miracles. Yet if we endeavor in good works and faith, we have the hope that in His mercy, we might be found approved at Christ's judgement seat and know the glory of perfect obedience, faith and power as gifts bestowed upon those granted eternal life. These so blessed will work alongside their Prince, the Lord Jesus Christ as saints, going throughout the earth teaching and healing in His name that all men should have a knowledge of the Gospel and the opportunity to bow their knee unto their Lord and Savior.

This is our hope and the goal of our life's work - let us persevere in this endeavor with faith unwavering for the time of His return is near.

M.C.S.

THE KINGS OF THE NORTH AND OF THE SOUTH
Daniel 11:11

To they who in truth seek to scripture in this last time, Daniel provides a message. As we look at this troubled world we can see in the political events taking place, how the Heavenly plan is moving on, leading to the establishment of the Kingdom of Heaven. We are told of the emergence of the Kings of the North and of the South. These will ultimately clash.

We will quote what the prophecy says:

“And both these kings’ hearts shall be to do mischief, and they shall speak lies at one table; but it shall not prosper: for yet the end shall be at the TIME APPOINTED.

At the time appointed he shall return, and come toward the south... And at the time of the end SHALL THE KING OF THE SOUTH push at him; and the king of the north SHALL COME AGAINST HIM... and shall overflow and pass over.

He shall enter also into the glorious land...”

(Daniel 11: 27, 29, 40-41)

At this time there will be Heavenly intervention. Scripture here tells us what this will be:

“...yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.”

(Daniel 11:45)

As the daily news comes to us, we frequently read of significant events. We will report some of these.

“Consumers are seeing higher rates and fewer loans, particularly for those with small deposits. This has caused problems for people on already tight household budgets and created a stalemate for first time buyers.”

One result is that Europe has become a troubled area, and Spain is one of its financially affected places. Looking a little further into its media, we read these words:

“80 percent of voters are crying out for a referendum, nearly half of voters...want their voices heard...according to the survey. A further third... believe that there should be a vote in the next few years revealing people’s deep dissatisfaction with Brussels on a popular crusade to get Britain out of the EU...it is crucial to the public and must happen...”

The British press strongly advocates that the UK should now no longer be so closely involved in the business of the European Union. Hitherto Britain has to a degree distanced itself from the EU, even to the extent of keeping its own currency and its involvement in the affairs of this grouping has always been problematic. Nevertheless Britain has kept close to the United States of America.

So Britain and the USA, two powerful peoples, develop in accordance with the heavenly purpose, being positioned to take their places in the coming conflict between the King of the South and the King of the North.

World events are assurance to us that the Kingdom of God draws near, and from Heaven will come He who is the Prince of Peace.

PSALM 103

Psalm 103, which we have read recently, is explicit in its message to bless the Lord. We think of God blessing us, not the other way around, but David instructs us to:

“Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits;”
Psalm 103:1-2

It is clear from David’s words of our need to bless God for all He has provided for His children.

The word “bless” comes from a prime root to “kneel”, giving the thought of bowing down in adoration before God. This is what David implies when he said, “all that is within me, bless his holy name”. David points out all the benefits, not to be forgotten, that God gives to His people:

“Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;
Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;
Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle’s.”
Psalm 103:3-5

David goes on in this Psalm to illustrate God’s goodness and how bountiful and loving He is:

“The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.
He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever.
He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.
For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.”
Psalm 103:8-11

These godly characteristics are what He looks for in His people - to those who value their place in His sight, just as Solomon declared when he dedicated the temple:

“For Solomon had made a brasen scaffold, of five cubits long,

and five cubits broad, and three cubits high, and had set it in the midst of the court; and upon it he stood, and kneeled down upon his knees before all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven,

And said, O LORD God of Israel, there is no God like thee in the heaven, nor in the earth; which keepeth covenant, and shewest mercy unto thy servants, that walk before thee with all their hearts:

Thou which hast kept with thy servant David my father that which thou hast promised him; and spakest with thy mouth, and hast fulfilled it with thine hand, as it is this day.

Now therefore, O LORD God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father which thou hast promised him, saying, There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit upon the throne of Israel; yet so that thy children take heed to their way to walk in my law, as thou has walked before me.

Now then, O LORD God of Israel, let thy word be verified, which thou has spoken unto thy servant David."

II Chronicles 6:13-17

Solomon at that time, knelt before the congregation of Israel - giving the Almighty adoration for those things he was permitted, fulfilling his father David's desire to build a house for the Lord. Israel could see the temple constructed in its glory before them, knowing God would dwell therein in their midst:

"Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house. And the priests could not enter into the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD's house. And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever."

II Chronicles 7:1-3

David wrote in Psalm 95 in like manner:

"O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.

For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. To day if ye will hear his voice,"

Psalm 95:6-7

Being the sheep of His flock is fitting, for sheep are helpless creatures before any predator, who depend upon a loving master to feed and protect them. Being a shepherd, David could call upon that understanding and see the similarities between God as our Shepherd leading His people. How often the Lord Jesus knelt down in prayer to the Father, seeking guidance and strength to overcome His flesh:

“And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation.

And he was withdrawn from them about a stone’s cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, Saying, Father, If thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will but thine, be done.” Luke 22:40-42

In humility the Lord Jesus knelt before God, not once but many times, to ask for help and strength. This prayer recorded in Luke was made hours before his capture and crucifixion and knowing what lay ahead, He must have greatly feared, evident by his words, “If thou be willing, remove this cup from me”. He knew deliverance was not possible if He was to be the sacrificial lamb, but still the fear in his flesh sought escape. Yet with resolve, He faced what lay before Him with courage and faith. Paul, speaking of the Lord Jesus’ trail of faith writes:

“Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;” Hebrews 5:7-9

Eternal salvation is possible only through belief in the Lord Jesus Christ, who bowed down before His Father in perfect obedience and humility. We fail, but given understanding through David’s words in this Psalm, we are helped to see the need to bow ourselves before the Lord, giving praise and reverence to Him for all the bounty he provides and most especially for the hope of salvation possible through belief in His Son.

M.C.S.

A BIBLE CLASS

“PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD...”

Ephesians 6:11

The words of Paul to his Ephesian brethren to “Put on the whole armour of God” were words of warning and encouragement to prepare them for the battle that must occur for them to be pleasing to God. Before considering the phrase in question, let us examine the function of armour.

Throughout history, armour has been used by man to protect himself from physical harm from an outside source - usually from another man or his inventions. As man and his weapons became more sophisticated so did the armour that he wore. Armour started out as simple animal furs and skins, but became more protective as man treated the skins to harden them, and then studs were added to deflect bladed weapons. Later came the invention of chain mail, which helped prevent pointed weapons from penetrating the body. Eventually, layers of metal plates were used and overlapped to encase the wearer in a more complete protective barrier. Often the veteran or elite soldiers wore the most sophisticated and complete armour. The younger and common soldiers were often equipped with basic and partial armour, compared to experienced soldiers, such as knights, who wore full suits of metal plate.

To return to Paul’s words, let us start with verse 10:

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.” Ephesians 6:10

Here Paul tells us to strengthen our faith in the Lord and His might. He continues by saying:

“Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.” Ephesians 6:11

Here Paul emphasizes that we “Put on the whole armour of God.” If the whole armour is not utilized, then our protection is not complete. It is our work to don the armour completely. We must put forth the effort to collect **all** the pieces of the armour, and then to properly place them in their appropriate locations. If we do not take this care, then our armour will be faulty and fail us in the time of need. Paul tells us to “Put on the whole armour of God” so that

we may “stand against the wiles of the devil.” The word **stand** means to remain firm or steadfast in a position; in this case it means either an offensive or defensive stance against the works of the devil, which are the works of the flesh.

Paul continues his exhortation to his Ephesian brethren:

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”
Ephesians 6:12

Our battle, we are told, is not a battle between combatants on a battlefield; but rather conflict with political powers in high places who control the fleshly world around us. During our present time we experience very little of this conflict, compared to Paul’s day, when the apostles were killed for their beliefs. As this world continues toward the day of God’s judgment, our fight may become much like Paul’s, as we may be persecuted for our beliefs. Our fight is further described by Paul in his words to the Corinthians:

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:
(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)
Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”
II Corinthians 10:3-5

Of course the strong holds, imaginations, and high things do not have to be of a physical nature, but are very likely our own thoughts and desires which are not in accordance with the will of God.

Paul again re-emphasizes the **whole** power of God:

“Wherefore take unto you the **whole** armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to **stand**.”
Ephesians 6:13.

Here again, the **whole** armour is stressed, along with our effort

of “having done all” so that we may be prepared. This armour is not provided as a complete set, which, when it is worn, we are automatically protected from evil; but rather, it is to be sought out and diligently maintained in order to gain its full benefits.

Paul now describes the armour and all its parts:

“Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness.”

Ephesians 6:14

These two pieces of the armour are designed to protect the trunk or central core of the body. The loins are the general area from just above the waist to mid-thigh, and the breastplate protects the chest and upper torso. In this area, the major organs of the body reside, leaving it most vulnerable to enemy attack. The spiritual armour of God mentioned here are truth and righteousness. These are holy characteristics of God that must be adopted by the faithful as we seek Him in our lives.

Further we read:

“And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.”

Ephesians 6:15.

Our feet are what we walk upon, and essentially guide us in our journey. The feet of a warrior who has been girded with armour, finds confidence or boldness to walk the path that is before him. Once the gospel of peace is girded, a spiritual warrior will have that confidence to walk the path that God has set before him.

“Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.”

Ephesians 6:16

A shield is used to deflect and block the weapons of the enemy, and also covers the arm that holds it. The spiritual shield of faith is the weapon upon which every soldier of God relies. As a soldier of God applies faith in the Almighty, he is able to rely on and trust in Him.

“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

Ephesians 6:17

A helmet is used to protect the head and face of the wearer. The sword can be used to deflect the weapons of the adversary, but is most frequently associated with offensive moves to destroy our enemies. In the spiritual sense, if we can focus our thoughts on the hope of salvation, we will strive to obtain that prize. Through the Word of God, we can gain the spiritual strength we need.

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”
Hebrews 4:12

As the day of God’s Judgment approaches, we must make sure that our armour is prepared and in place:

“And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep:

for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the armour of light.

Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying;

But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof” Romans 13:11-14

It is apparent from the words of Paul to his Roman brethren that he knew the time for his preparation was coming to an end. We need to come out of darkness and into the light, and don our armour. The armour of God is truly the Lord Jesus. He is the embodiment of that spiritual armour. His is the truth of God. He has fulfilled all righteousness. He is the fulfillment of the gospel of peace. Jesus’ faith in God was perfect. It is through Him that we have the hope of salvation by His perfect employment of both the Spirit and Word of God. So let us put on Jesus. Let us seek God through Jesus’ holy name, because if we put on that whole armour (Jesus), and abide in it (Him), then, and only then, can we truly have the hope of God’s salvation. As Paul’s words to his Roman brethren express:

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long;
we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors
through him that loved us.

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 8:35-39

E.J.M.

“GREAT AND MARVELLOUS ARE THY WORKS”

In our recent readings in Revelation help is given through
John’s vision which can encourage and strengthen in these last days
as we endeavor to keep in mind and spirit the sureness of God’s
purpose.

John saw a great sign, the last plagues or judgments which
are to be carried out prior to the establishment of the kingdom. Our
attention is focused upon those standing before His throne with the
harps of God:

“And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and
the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are they
works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou
King of Saints.”

Those who comprise that company of saints give glory to God
for the great blessing that is theirs. They now sing the song of Moses
and the Lamb because God’s ways were precious to them during
their probation as they endeavored to praise Him with their living.
In kindness He allowed John to record this stirring event to inspire

us toward that promised end. Those granted the gift of life sing of God's great and marvellous works never perceived by those in the world who reckon man's works only are of any importance and ignore the wondrous signs around them.

The Almighty's ways are just and true while men are tainted with the corruption characteristic of the flesh. Here is the righteousness and patience of the saints revealed for those who have struggled to keep God's commandments and the faith of the Lord Jesus. These now with uplifted heart sing, "Great and marvellous are thy works".

The song of Moses was written in ages past celebrating one such miraculous work, for God had just delivered His people from the hardened heart of Pharaoh:

"Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea." Exodus 15:1

Israel's enemies had been destroyed, not by Moses or the people but by God's hand alone. In this song Moses speaks of God's greatness and His mighty works.

"Who is like unto thee O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?" Exodus 15:11

The children of Israel saw great wonders while in Egypt but did not fully realize the magnitude of His power. These marvels were witnessed too by Egypt and Pharaoh - symbolizing all who are ignorant and scornful of God, ruled by flesh. Yahweh delivered His people from oppression as He took them through the Red Sea, while the Egyptians who pursued soon lay dead up on the seashore as a testimony of His might.

We too have the ability to see His hand working toward His purpose and bringing judgment upon the earth. While we witness these last day signs, shall not our spirits reflect this Song of Moses which helps us to recognize and value God's mercy, kindness and power to be vested in His Son.

“Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power:
thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.”
Exodus 15:6

Moses looking to THE right hand of God could envision the deliverance promised through Yahweh’s Messiah yet to come - these events of which we read in John’s vision. Remembering the Song of Moses helps us to have faith and perception that we too can see His great and marvellous works even today, similar to Egypt’s plagues. Man now looks chiefly at his own accomplishments as great, but because they are motivated by flesh they are doomed to failure. We only have to look around at the world to see the damage brought about by man’s greed - acid rain, pollution of the lakes and oceans, A.I.D.S., war, and famine. All these are the world’s people yet, are as compared with when the kingdom is established:

“Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.”

Rev. 15:4

The world today generally does not regard God - they think Him dead or powerless, for the flesh rules their lives, but there will come a time just as it came to Pharaoh and his army, when fear will overcome them and they will be destroyed because of ungodliness. A kingdom is to come which will be great and marvellous - a culmination of all His goodness to those who are sustained by the hope of being with the Lord Jesus as kings and priests, singing the Song of the Lamb:

“And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father’s name written in their foreheads.” Rev. 14:1

This glorious multitude now redeemed are those who have seen in faith the Lord Jesus as the victor over his flesh, have endeavored to walk after Him during their time of probation and will sing:

“...a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people and nation;

And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.” Rev. 5:9-10

During his probation David recognized God’s majesty and purpose praising Him in a “new song”:

“I will sing a new song unto thee, O God: upon a psaltery and an instrument of ten strings will I sing praises unto thee.” Psalm 144:9

His words speak of hope in God’s promised deliverance:

“O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.

The LORD hath made known his salvation: his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen.

He hath remembered his mercy and his truth toward the house of Israel: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.” Psalm 98:1-3

The song of the redeemed is one of joy in submission to His guidance, even as Israel under Moses as led to deliverance in the conquest over Pharaoh. The world’s present signs portend Jesus’ near return. The promise of life everlasting may be close for some, but only as they continue to focus on His great and marvellous works, joining with David in spirit to:

“...sing unto the LORD a new song; sing unto the LORD, all the earth.

Sing unto the LORD, bless his name; shew forth his salvation from day to day.” Psalm 96:1-2

It is a day to day struggle to keep in mind and show forth that salvation, but it is possible, for we have been shown these one hundred and forty-four thousand through John’s vision. How is it to be done? David’s words help us to understand:

“Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people.” Psalm 96:3

Part of our work is to witness of His glory by our words and actions, to a world which does not know Him.

"I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.

And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD."
Psalm 40:1-3

David was nearly overwhelmed by the Almighty's wonderful works. As we await the Lord Jesus return, may not these same thoughts fill our hearts, for it is only those who have seen in faith His great and marvellous works may sing the Song of Moses and of the Lamb.

M.C.S.

SIGNS OF HIS COMING

"... there shall come in the last days scoffers,"

II Peter 3:3

These words above, spoken by Peter were addressed to:

"...them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:"
II Peter 1:1

He was conveying to his brethren, that in the last days there will be a growth in people who believe there is no God. Such a stand will be based on their contention:

"...Where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation."
II Peter 3:4

The theory by many people that there is no God is on the rise throughout the world. A worldwide survey in the year 2000 by the Gallop Polling Agency found that 8% do not think there is a personal God. In 2010 that number had more than doubled. Such godless thinking on the part of mankind is not new, as also witnessed at the time of Noah:

“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.” Genesis 6:5

We can well imagine the scoffers ridiculing Noah for building an ark on dry ground. Their thinking was only of self and that there was no God to exact punishment upon them.

Their attitude is the attitude of much of mankind today who either say there is no God, or at best have a superstitious and misguided view of God and what he expects from His people.

The scoffers in Noah’s day were all drowned in the flood, serving as a witness today of mankind’s ultimate fate as Peter elaborates in the 10th verse of our consideration:

“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”
II Peter 3:10

Despite such clear warning - how few look for the return of the Lord Jesus, as they are caught up in the hectic pace of today’s world, following after their own devices while scoffing at God’s word.

M.C.S.

NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR AUGUST 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

After a very hot and dry summer, we look forward to cooler fall weather with the changing of the seasons reminding us of God's magnificent handiwork. The majesty of God's creation allows us to rejoice as we anticipate Jesus' soon return to usher in the Kingdom of God on this earth. Then and only then will all men come to realize that truly God overrules in their affairs, exposing the appearance of man's flesh nature. We thank God for the knowledge of His saving grace.

M.C.S.

MANCHESTER

Sunday: Breaking of Bread 11:30 am

Thursday: Bible Class 2:00 pm

Our meeting place at our new address has become convenient to us all. We have much to be thankful for in our circumstances. Help to us for our Ecclesial work, from our Heavenly Father, brings to us great comfort and we wish to express this here.

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

www.remnantofchristsecclesia.com