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# The Remnant of Christ's Ecclesia

in opposition to the Dogmas of  
Papal and Protestant Christendom

A WITNESS TO THE TRUTH

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

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

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## YOUR REASONABLE SERVICE

Paul in his letter to the Romans, exhorts them and we today, to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, acceptable to God:

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

Romans 12:1-2

This word “reasonable” means to be a logical application. Therefore the doing of God’s word in our living is the logical application of what we have learned from His word, that we may be pleasing in His sight. To do so we must not bend to the dictates of the world in which we live - which exists only to please self, the carnal man. But rather to conform our bodies to the doing of God’s will alone:

“Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.”

Romans 6:13-14

God’s word makes known the hope of overcoming death and the logical result in our minds is to be made into godly instruments, doing His will. On the surface we might think this is impossible but Paul declares we can do this through God’s mercy and His grace unto us through our mediator, Jesus Christ:

“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

Philippians 4:13

Paul knew that through the power of the Lord Jesus, he could be an instrument of righteousness, strengthened to do what was spiritually pleasing. Christ strengthens us likewise as we call upon Him in prayer for help to overcome our flesh, in circumstances which try our resolve to do what we know is right.

To Timothy, his son in the ministry of Christ, Paul wrote of

this power given of Christ, which enabled him to spread the gospel of hope when once he was a persecutor of His church:

“...I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious; but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.”

I Timothy 1:12-14

Paul fully recognized the mercy of God through the Lord Jesus that had enabled or empowered him to become a faithful minister, when once he made it his life's work in misdirected zeal to persecute and capture Christ's followers.

Again, through his writing, Paul leaves us today with the key of how we too may become faithful followers of Christ:

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

Paul had been conformed to the world, for as a member of the sect of the Pharisees he had persecuted the believers of Christ. However, his mind was transformed by the miracle of the vision on his way to Damascus (which was in pursuit of Christ's followers). He was shown the true light of God's word and thus the true understanding that the Lord Jesus was the Christ - sent from God as the Redeemer for all those who would believe on Him.

The world today is much changed from Paul's day. It has advanced in all the sciences of man yet has plunged even deeper into spiritual darkness as the flesh seeks to serve only self, denying itself nothing which brings pleasure and satisfaction. There is no thought to the carnal man of self-sacrifice or personal restraint to conform oneself more pleasing to God. We must, as Paul exhorted his Ephesian brethren, put off the self-seeking habits of the old man of flesh in order to renew our minds and bodies to His ways of righteousness:

“This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of

their mind, Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

But ye have not so learned Christ;

If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

And be renewed in the spirit of your mind. And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”

Ephesians 4:17,19-24

Renewing the spirit of our mind to be vessels of righteousness and to put off the things of the flesh - the old carnal man - is our life's work. Just as Paul was made mindful of God's will and therefore was renewed in his mind by that knowledge. In Colossians Paul continues this thought showing us too what we are to do in order to walk in righteousness:

“Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience

In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.

But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds

And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:”

Colossians 3:5-10

These fleshly characteristics are to be crucified, replaced by those things from above, fostered out of love through the means of perfection.

This is to be our spiritual goal - our “reasonable service” and to do so, our heart of flesh must be circumcised. Peter reminds us of the hope ahead for those who endeavor in this work:

“If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. To whom

coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”

I Peter 2:3-5

Spiritual sacrifices can only be acceptable by the Lord Jesus, the One who can make us lively or living stones to be built into the house of God where the Lord Jesus is the Cornerstone. By aligning ourselves to Him we can be polished, our rough edges smoothed away to make us acceptable for use:

“Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner.

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

I Peter 2:6-7,9-10

That mercy enables us to approach unto Him with a heart and mind transformed and renewed according to His will. This state of mind requires humility as Paul says in his letter to the Romans:

“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.”

Romans 12:3

What an uplifting and helpful message we have received from Paul’s writings, emphasizing our need to cut off the old man of flesh from our living — not as an extraordinary endeavor but as our “reasonable service” to conform ourselves to a walk of righteousness which God seeks in those that are His.

M.C.S.

## THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

In the first seven chapters of The Proverbs, Solomon addresses the reader in a fatherly tone, as “My Son.” He afterwards proclaims that we should follow his words. In chapter one he states:

“... hear the instruction of thy father.. .” Proverbs 1:8

In chapter two he says:

“... receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee.” Proverbs 2:1

Similarly in chapter three:

“... forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments.” Proverbs 3:1

In the fourth chapter he says:

“... receive my sayings;” Proverbs 4:10

And follows in chapter five:

“... attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding.” Proverbs 5:1

In the sixth chapter he again commands us:

“... keep thy father’s commandment.. .” Proverbs 6:20

And finally in chapter seven:

“... keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee.” Proverbs 7:1

All these words emphasize the need for a child to remember the words of wisdom from a father. Every father would like to see his children grow and prosper, by following his example in applying the wisdom he has given them. By listening to his words, it is his hope that the children will become better people, and bring joy and pride to their father by their application.

The words of Solomon were not meant just for his sons, but are the inspired words of God to all the faithful, given through Solomon. In chapter four, Solomon tells us how he was instructed by his Father regarding wisdom:

“He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live.

Get wisdom, get understanding; forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.

Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee. Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom, and with all thy getting get understanding.

Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her.

She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.

Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many.” Proverbs 4:4-10

These words show how greatly wisdom is to be valued. Any wisdom is an asset, but the wisdom we gather from the Word of God is precious. The wisdom of man can bring honor, blessing, and glory to a man of the world; but the wisdom of God can give us many times more at the return of the Lord Jesus, if we are judged righteous. As we apply the wisdom of God to our lives, we seek Him for guidance and direction. As we pray, through Jesus, we must trust with patience that God will direct us according to His will. God does direct His faithful down the path which He chooses for each of us:

“I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths.

When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened, and when thou runnest, thou shall not stumble.” Proverbs 4:11-12

The words of David in the Psalms remind us to walk in the way of the Lord:

“Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD.

Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.

They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways.

Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently.

O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes!

Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments.

I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments.

I will keep thy statutes: O forsake me not utterly."

Psalm 119:1-8

As an example of one who did seek the wisdom of God, we look to the life of King Josiah, who reformed Judah after years of their neglect of God:

"Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem one and thirty years.

And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of David his father, and declined neither to the right hand, nor to the left.

For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David his father, and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem from the high places, and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images."

II Chronicles 34:1-3

From an early age, Josiah recognized that Judah was not following God, and sought to remedy the problem by destroying the idols, carved images, groves, and high places dedicated to gods other than the only true God. He then sought to repair the house of God, as it was suffering from neglect. The book of the law was found within the temple, and Josiah commanded it to be read to him:

"And it came to pass, when the king heard the words of the law, that he rent his clothes."

II Chronicles 34:19

Josiah then commanded for the word of God to be sought, to determine what should be done:

"Go, enquire of the LORD for me, and for them that are left in Israel and Judah, concerning the words of the book that is found: for great is the wrath of the LORD that is poured out upon us, because our fathers have not kept the word of the LORD, to do after all that is written in this book."

II Chronicles 34:21

Those who were sent, came to Huldah the prophetess, and soon left with the words of God to tell to Josiah:



“Because thine heart was tender, and thou didst humble thyself before God, when thou heardest his words against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, and humbledst thyself before me, and didst rend thy clothes, and weep before me, I have even heard thee also, saith the LORD. Behold, will gather thee to thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered to thy grave in peace, neither shall thine eyes see all the evil that I will bring upon this place, and upon the inhabitants of the same...” II Chronicles 34:27-28

Because of Josiah’s regard for God and his willingness to make changes in Judah that were pleasing to God, Josiah was spared from witnessing the judgments that were to come upon Judah.

Back in Proverbs, Solomon tells us to avoid the path of the wicked doer:

“Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it and pass away.” Proverbs 4:14-15

A man wise in the ways of the Almighty will seek to avoid the wicked who he meets, as he walks in the path of God. The wisdom of God has taught that the flesh will lure us to the way of evil if we are not diligent. Therefore temptation should be avoided. The path before us will sometimes lead us through darkness, but the words of David give us strength and comfort:

“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.  
He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.” Psalm 23:1-4

Those who are wise in the ways of the Lord, should not fear when they encounter evil, as long as they remain strong in the Lord. God will not allow harm to come to any of His, if it is not meant to be.

Faith in God during times of darkness brings to mind the example of Paul and Silas, who were thrown into prison after they

commanded a spirit of divination to come out of a soothsayer. Paul and Silas had great faith in God:

“... at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.  
And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one’s bands were loosed.” Acts 16:25-26

Paul and Silas’ trust in God allowed them to apply His wisdom in their difficult situation, knowing that if they turned to the Almighty, His will would be done.

Solomon instructs us to stay focused on the path before us, and to turn not aside from the ways of God, but trust in Him:

“Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.” Proverbs 4:26-27

And further:

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding.  
In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6

We know that there is One who perfectly trusted in the God with all His heart — the Lord Jesus. Each day Jesus turned to His Father for instruction and strength; each day Jesus prevailed over His flesh. In Jesus’ last hours, before He was betrayed, He came to Gethsemane to pray, and told His disciples that were with him:

“... My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here and watch. And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.  
And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.” Mark 14:34-36

Through the terrible trial that Jesus was enduring. He still

focused on the path that God had set for him, and was able to surrender His will to God. Jesus had the power within Himself to end His trial, but that would not have been God's will.

If we can apply the wisdom of God in our lives, as we attempt to follow the path that God has set before us, we have hope of becoming more pleasing to God, as we travel further down that path.

"But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." Proverbs 4:18

The path that we follow is God's provision, so that we might attain to His promised hope — the Kingdom. This final reward is only available to us because Jesus perfectly followed His path. He became a willing sacrifice so that all who have truly sought God may have an opportunity to enter the Kingdom. Jesus tells us it is only through Him that there is an approach to God:

"... I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6-7

If we can take Solomon's words to heart, hear the instruction of a father, and attempt to apply it, with God's help, we can remain on the path that He has set before us. How great is the hope, if we can attain to the promised joy!

E.J.M.

## THE LAW THROUGH LEVITICUS

From our Daily Reading Program of the scriptures, we have recently completed the third book of Moses entitled "Leviticus". Enclosed within are the commandments of God, given through Moses, to the children of Israel on Mt. Sinai.

The word "Leviticus" comes from the Greek meaning, "pertaining to the Levites" and from a prime root "to turn or join self, to unite". Giving God's precepts to His people gave them the

understanding that they could then walk before Him in obedience as members of His covenant:

“And I will set my tabernacle among you: and my soul shall not abhor you.

And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people.” Leviticus 26:11-12

The law was established so that His people would know what God required of them in order to walk in the straight and narrow way, giving glory and honor to Him.

The priesthood, along with the service of the Levites was established to serve God, that the people might be at one with Him. The priests and Levites ministered within the tabernacle at the time of Moses, carrying out the duties required of them as the congregation brought their sacrifices to God through His ministers. These sacrifices were a type of the One perfect sacrifice that would come in the life given by His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. Although they in Moses' time did not know Him by name, they saw Him in figure in all the furnishings and duties of the priesthood before them at that time. They could not approach unto God directly with their offerings - they must go through the ministers God had appointed - His priesthood. The same today has been accomplished by the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus - He is our wall of partition - our means of approach unto God in prayer.

The law covered every aspect of their life - both civil and criminal law. By knowing what was against the law - that which did not please God, His people then knew what to avoid and how to focus their thinking on their flesh nature to be overcome and thus be united to Him through obedience to His word. All these precepts and offerings given, were to be performed from the heart as an integral part of one's living - not done because it was expected as a meaningless form, by the letter only. If an offering was not presented with the right spirit and discernment and repentance, acknowledging the act of sin that had required it, and what their offering represented, it would not be accepted by God, for He alone knows the heart.

Paul in his letter to the Galatians wrote of the purpose of the law under Moses:

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

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

For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.”  
Galatians 3:24-26

The spirit of the law was to work faith within their hearts that Israel might see the work to be wrought by the Messiah promised - the Lamb of God. However, once Jesus came and offered His life as a perfect sacrifice for sin, all those believing in Him were liberated from the law because He was the only means through which repentance for sin could be sought with God. This is a gem of truth that the present day Jewish people have failed to grasp. This fact Peter plainly preached to those of Israel after the death of the Lord Jesus:

“Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” Acts 4:10-12

To believe in the saving grace provided by God through His Son is to be redeemed from the bondage of not only the law for Israel, but from the bondage of sin and death which comes to us all. To believe in the Lord Jesus is to be adopted into the hope of Israel, to become a member of “spiritual Israel” as Paul went on to explain to the Galatians.

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.” Galatians 3:28-29

As a minister of the gospel to the Gentiles after the death of Christ, it was Paul’s work to spread the good news of the Kingdom of God and the hope possible through the name of Jesus Christ to all those who before knew not God, nor his promise first given to

only Israel. This gift was now possible through belief and faith in the Lord Jesus to all men - recognizing that salvation was now possible through obedience and faith in Him if one endeavored to walk after His example.

To the Gentiles at Ephesus Paul in like manner wrote:

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.” Ephesians 2:10-13

And further in verse 18:

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

Ephesians 2:18

Through God’s law as recorded in Leviticus which we have recently read, He directed His people to see within His word the spirit of love and reconciliation possible to those whose hearts could be touched. Today, we as Gentiles have been given that same precious gift - the hope of life everlasting, if we endeavor to walk in that same spirit, through the provision of our Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

M.C.S.

## **“I WILL SEARCH JERUSALEM WITH CANDLES”**

### **Zephaniah 1:12**

The first chapter of Zephaniah sets the time of this prophecy in the days of Josiah, king of Judah, a period contemporary with the prophet Jeremiah:

“The words of Jeremiah. . .To whom the word of the LORD came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon king of Judah.”  
Jeremiah 1:1-2.

This was approximately 20 years prior to the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem’s people, those who had turned their backs and no longer inquired of the Lord. This prophecy of Zephaniah’s was fulfilled in part then, but also speaks of a judgment which is yet to come at the Lord Jesus’ return, a time known as the day of the Lord.

“And it shall come to pass at that time, that I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, The LORD will not do good, neither will he do evil.”  
Zephaniah 1:12.

To search means exactly that, and the word candles is rendered in the Concordance as a light. What was God looking for? Candles give light only during darkness for there is no need for them during the brightness of day. Was its saying that Jerusalem was spiritually in darkness because she refused to walk in His light, straying far from His precepts? God warned He would search out those who had “settled on their lees”, content with themselves and unconcerned with changing their ways. Because of unbelief they thought God would do nothing, so settled back in self-satisfaction.

“Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD’s wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.”  
Zephaniah 1:18.

It was a time of plenty, there was no want or lack of goods, for many had silver and gold which perhaps explains their slide into complacency. Josiah’s reaction however was different, for when the book of the law was found and read he was full of remorse:

“And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes.  
Go ye, enquire of the LORD for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that is found: for great is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not hearkened unto the words of this book, to do according unto all that which is written concerning us.” II Kings 22:11,13.

Josiah rent his clothes in grief as he realized how far the people had strayed from keeping this law. He inquired of the Lord and God’s word had an influence on him for good, but on others it made no impression for they worshipped the pagan idols belonging to the nations around them, bringing offense to God and condemnation on the priests:

“And them that worship the host of heaven upon the housetops; and them that worship and that swear by the LORD, and that swear by Malcham;  
And them that are turned back from the LORD; and those that have not sought the LORD, nor enquired for him.”  
Zephaniah 1:5-6.

God’s people had departed far from Him, and so prophets such as Zephaniah and earlier, Jeremiah were sent to turn them back to the path of truth. God promised He would yet be longsuffering and merciful to any who would repent, but to those who refused would come punishment and ultimately captivity at the hand of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. The Spirit was as a light, searching out the city for any whose hearts could ye be touched.

Hundreds of years later, a similar warning was given to those of the Laodicean ecclesia who were in the same perishing position:

“I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot. I would thou wert cold or hot.  
So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:”  
Revelation 3:15-17.



These words came to reveal a need for healing - they were in grave spiritual distress yet were content and "increased with goods", much like those in Zephaniah's day. God who searches the heart can determine man's innermost thoughts and intents - there is no hiding from the Almighty's piercing light.

"Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountain of Samaria, which are named chief of the nations, to whom the house of Israel came!" Amos 6:1.

Again, "woe to them that are at ease" or who rest on their lees, not alert and watching for His coming. Again a warning repeated often - as God's people failed to appreciate the holiness of their Maker's calling; - warning that we too must be watchful, spiritually prepared for our day of accounting. Thus Zephaniah continues to sound the direful warning:

"The great day of the LORD is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly

That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness.

And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung.

Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD's wrath..."

Zephaniah 1:14,15,17,18.

These men blind to God's light could not see for the opportunity to repent had elapsed. God will not be mocked by the wicked; eventually His longsuffering will come to an end. Knowing that the day of the Lord is to come and that the searching goes on even now, how carefully we should search our hearts, driving out any devious ways of darkness within. Only those who have done so may hope for His mercy and redemption on that great day:

"I will gather them that are sorrowful for the solemn assembly...Behold, at that time I will undo all that afflict thee: and I will save her that halteth, and gather her that was driven out; and I will get them praise and fame in every

land where they have been put to shame.

At that time will I bring you again, even in the time that I gather you: for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, saith the LORD." Zephaniah 3:18-20.

Those to be at the right hand of His judgment seat will not have been slack or rested on the lees, and through His mercy will be granted robes of white linen, washed in the blood of the Lamb. This same hope is held out to us today, that we may bask in the light of salvation granted those who have fed upon His word and endeavored to reflect it in their living.

Prophets such as Zephaniah and Jeremiah brought this light to His people, but the majority closed their eyes to its majesty and hope, choosing instead to follow their own darkness. Let us therefore be warned and expend all our efforts to be found in His light when the Spirit goes forth to search.

M.C.S.

## WONDERFUL WORLD

**The fish of the sea, the fowls of the heaven and man to walk upon this good earth.**

The fish of the sea are a wonderful witness to the wisdom of the Creative Power above. There they are living vigorously in their own prescribed environment. Let us note these words:

"By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in store-houses."  
Psalms 33:6-7

How apt are those words. The tremendous volume of those waters which are gathered together to their defined places, are kept over the years to their defined position and in those waters is an extraordinary range of marine life. Some of that aquatic life is quite small, nevertheless it can descend to great depths in the sea because

it has been made to do so - moving and swimming according to the pattern of a wonderful divine design.

It is “the breath of life” as described in Genesis 2 :7 that is within the fishes of the sea and the fowls of heaven and other living creatures as well as man. That great work in the Beginning is explained in these words:

“And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forward abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth. And the evening and the morning were the fifth day. And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.”  
Genesis 1:21-24

So came about this Heavenly working and a miracle of design resulted. What a wonderful Heavenly witness it is - which truly can be seen around us to this day. What a testimony to our Heavenly Father and His love toward us which is of and from His great mercy.

### **SIGNS OF THE TIMES AND OF THE END OF THE WORLD**

‘The fool hath said in his  
heart, there is no God.’  
Psalm 14:1

Man’s determination to disprove the existence of God took another step forward on July 4, 2012 with the discovery of the Higgs’ boson, the so called ‘God particle’. This name given for the Higgs boson, was from a particle that was proposed in the 1960’s by British physicist Peter Higgs as a way of exploring why other particles have mass. Theoretically, the Higgs particle is responsible for mass, without which there would be no gravity and no universe.

According to Michio Kaku, a professor of theoretical physics at CUNY, "the press has dubbed the Higgs boson the 'God particle'; a nickname that makes many physicists cringe. But there is some logic to it. According to the Bible, God set the universe into motion as He proclaimed, "Let there be light. In physics, the universe started off with a cosmic explosion - the Big Bang theory, 13.7 billion years ago, which sent the stars and galaxies hurtling in all directions. But the key question is left unanswered: why did it bang? The Big Bang theory says nothing about how and why it banged in the first place!

To put it another way, what was the match that set off the cosmic explosion? What put the "bang" in The Big Bang? In quantum physics, it was a Higgs-like particle that sparked the cosmic explosion. In other words, every thing we see around us, including galaxies, stars, planets and us, owes its existence to the Higgs boson."

Such thinking removes God as the Creator and perpetuates the serpent's lie. Further, Paul reminds us in Colossians 1:16-17:

"For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:  
And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."  
Colossians 1: 16-17

The avowed atheist, Peter Higgs, can theorize all he wants, but the question remains - where did the elements of nature come from in the beginning?

The obvious existence of God stands sure, allowing the faith of those who believe in Him to grow, as the foolishness of man flounders in the overshadowing wisdom of God.

"The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God."  
I Corinthians 3:19

May we take courage in these last days as we see men's theories crumble in the light of God's infinite wisdom.

NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR SEPTEMBER 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 another summer will soon pass, we anticipate the changing of another season and delight in the unchanging handiwork of God's Divine power. We observe man's futility to try and control even the smallest facet of the world's environment, giving us strength and faith in the all-powerful Creator. Men's misplaced trust in self will soon reveal them to be in opposition to the things of God.

How blessed we are to have the word of God to guide and direct us from every snare.

M.C.S.

MANCHESTER

Sunday: Breaking of Bread 11:30 am

Thursday: Bible Class 2:00 pm

As time moves on and the Ecclesias continue, we have this blessing in Manchester "where one or two are gathered. "We are at this time joining with our brethren and sisters across the sea, as is appropriate, in remembering our Lord; rejoicing in the wonderful purpose of Heaven that centres in Jesus Christ. As we do this, and the coming deliverance draws nearer, we send our love to our Brethren and Sisters.

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

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