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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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## MIRACLES OF THE LORD JESUS

We read in our portions in John, the record of Jesus healing of the man who had a sickness for 38 years. He lay with others who were infirm, near the pool called "Bethesda" in Jerusalem.

It was believed that an angel would come periodically and disturb the water. The first to step into the pool after this disturbance would be healed.

When Jesus saw this man and knew he had been in this crippled state for a long time, He asked in compassion: "Wilt thou be made whole?" (John 5:6). Sadly, this man had no friend to help him into the water and so others always preceded him. The Lord's remedy was simple and direct using but a few words:

*"Rise, take up thy bed, and walk."*

And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath."

John 5:8-9

This was the kind of opportunity that the Pharisees had been waiting for. They observed the Law with a rigid adherence giving no leeway for pity or compassion - the very attributes that the Law was to inspire. It was forbidden to do any type of labor on the Sabbath and so they confronted the lame man who was carrying his bed after being healed:

*"The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed.*

*The man departed, and told the Jews that it was Jesus, which had made him whole.*

*And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day."*

John 5:10,15-16

Jesus' response to those steeped in the letter of the law was:

*"Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.*

For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel." John 5:19-20

It would be clear to those of a sensitive nature that the power of God was with the Lord Jesus. It was through that power that great works were done as God's power was vested in Him. Many times when the Lord Jesus performed a miracle, some did marvel while others thought he did these works through the power of black magic. However, not only did He not take credit for the works done, but gave the glory only to God. Jesus was of the flesh having feelings and thoughts as others do, but never succumbing or allowing them to rule His life.

On another instance, the Lord Jesus approached a man who had been blind since birth. This situation elicited a question from the disciples:

"And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?" John 9:2

This question may have been born from superstition or a lack of medical knowledge, which would be very common during those early years. They reasoned that if any were born crippled, it must have been the result of sin and thus was a punishment from God.

However, the Lord Jesus went on to explain this blindness was not the cause of sin but to show His disciples and all who were watching (and all those centuries later who read of this miracle) to know of God's power within His Son:

"...Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." John 9:3-5

He then made clay from His spittle and the earth and anointed the blind man's eyes and directed him to wash his eyes in the pool

of Siloam. Again it was the Sabbath day when the Lord Jesus healed this man which again angered the Pharisees:

“Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them.” John 9:16

There are always naysayers, who won't even believe what's before their eyes. Yet, there were others who were sincerely touched by what they witnessed and rightly concluded that only a godly man could perform such feats of healing. The Pharisees even doubted that the man healed was indeed blind from birth - looking for a valid reason to discredit the Lord Jesus:

“They say unto the blind man again, What sayest thou of him, that he hath opened thine eyes? He said, He is a prophet.

But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind, and received his sight, until they called the parents of him that had received his sight. And they asked them, saying, Is this your son, who ye say was born blind? How then doth he now see?

His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind:

But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself.” John 9:17-21

This blind man who was healed, believed with the eyes of faith more clearly than did the Pharisees. They spent their time bickering and intimidating this man and his parents, trying to find a chink in the truth that the Lord Jesus was performing miracles of healing.

Every year as faithful Jews, Mary and Joseph would take Jesus to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, traveling in a group of friends and family. By the tender age of twelve He was so focused on learning all He could about God's plan for Him that He tarried at the temple, questioning the elders in an effort to learn all He could, long after the family party had left for home.

"...as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it.

But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance.

And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.

And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.

And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? Behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.

And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"

Luke 2:43-49

Even at an early age He was intent on learning and listening, impressing the elders with His understanding and acumen of God's word. He was there in an effort to do His Father's will - which He did accomplish at Calvary, pouring out His life as a perfect sacrifice. He knew even as a young boy that this was the work that was set before Him.

"And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us."

I John 3:23-24

Here is given us the understanding of the only means by which we can be at one with the Father - through belief in the Lord Jesus His Son. Only by endeavoring to walk after His example with obedience and faith is the hope of salvation possible.

M.C.S.

THE FAITH OF KINGS

In recent readings in II Chronicles, we are shown a part of the life of Abijah, king of Judah. Although his reign was only three years, it is an example of great faith in God; but also it is a statement of how unreliable the flesh is in regard to following the statutes of God.

Turning to II Chronicles 13, we see Abijah preparing for a battle in the ongoing war between Israel and Judah. Judah's army, which was out-numbered two to one, was led by Abijah as he spoke from the top of a mountain:

“... Hear me, thou, Jeroboam, and all Israel;  
Ought ye not to know that the LORD God of Israel gave the kingdom over Israel to David for ever, even to him and to his sons by a covenant of salt?

Yet Jeroboam the son of Nebat, the servant of Solomon the son of David, is risen up, and hath rebelled against his lord. And there are gathered unto him vain men, the children of Belial, and have strengthened themselves against Rehoboam the son of Solomon, when Rehoboam was young and tenderhearted, and could not withstand them.

And now ye think to withstand the kingdom of the LORD in the hand of the sons of David; and ye be a great multitude, and there are with you golden calves, which Jeroboam made you for gods.

But as for us, the LORD is our God, and we have not forsaken him; and the priests, which minister unto the LORD, are the sons of Aaron, and the Levites wait upon their business:

And they burn unto the LORD every morning and every evening burnt sacrifices and sweet incense: the shewbread also set they in order upon the pure table; and the candlestick of gold with the lamps thereof, to burn every evening.: for we keep the charge of the LORD our God, but ye have forsaken him.

And, behold, God himself is with us for our captain, and his priests with sounding trumpets to cry alarm against you. O children of Israel, fight ye not against the LORD God of your fathers; for ye shall not prosper.”

II Chronicles 13:4-8, 10-12

During the time that Abijah spoke, Jeroboam sought to ambush his opponents, and sent a portion of his army behind Abijah and the men of Judah. When the men of Judah saw the battle at their front and their rear, they cried out to the Lord, and the priests sounded with trumpets. As Judah shouted, God smote Jeroboam and his men, and Judah prevailed over them and slew 500,000 men.

Even though Abijah was faithful in this case, the record in I Kings shows that he did not live his life in accordance with the statutes of the Lord:

“Now in the eighteenth year of king Jeroboam the son of Nebat reigned Abijah over Judah.

Three years reigned he in Jerusalem. And his mother’s name was Maachah, the daughter of Abishalom.

And he walked in all the sins of his father, which he had done before him: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father.”

I Kings 15:1-3

Abijah’s life was not significantly different than the kings before him. Let us go back to Solomon: he did have great faith in God at the beginning of his reign, as seen by the request for wisdom to rule God’s people. In the latter days of his life, Solomon turned from God and worshipped the gods of his many wives:

“For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.

For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammorites.

And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father.

Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods.

And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart

was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice.

And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded.

Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant. Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it for David thy father's sake: but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son. Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen." I Kings 11:4-13

It was Jeroboam whom God had chosen to rule over the ten tribes of Israel, because of Solomon's apostasy:

"And it came to pass at the time when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him in the way; and he had clad himself with a new garment; and they two were alone in the field.

And Ahijah caught the new garment that was on him, and rent it in twelve pieces.

And he said to Jeroboam, Take thee ten pieces: for thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, Behold, I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and give ten tribes to thee:

(But he shall have one tribe for my servant David's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel:)

And unto his son will I give one tribe, that David my servant may have a light always before me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen me to put my name there.

And I will take thee, and thou shalt reign according to all that thy soul desireth, and shalt be king over Israel.

And it shall be, if thou wilt hearken unto all that I command thee, and wilt walk in my ways, and do that is right in my sight, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as David my servant did; that I will be with thee, and build thee a sure house, as I built for David, and will give Israel unto thee."

I Kings 11:29-32,36-38

God promised Jeroboam a house like David's, if he would keep God's statutes and commandments; but as we know, soon after he had control of the ten tribes he sinned:

"If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah. Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan. And this thing became a sin; for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan.

And he made an house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi. And Jeroboam ordained a feast of the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Judah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Bethel, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made."

I Kings 12:27-32

Rehoboam sought to take Israel back by force from Jeroboam, but was told by God to refrain because it was His will:

"And when Rehoboam was come to Jerusalem, he gathered of the house of Judah and Benjamin an hundred and fourscore thousand chosen men, which were warriors, to fight against Israel, that he might bring the kingdom again to Rehoboam.

But the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah the man of God, saying,

Speak unto Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and to all Israel in Judah and Benjamin, saying,

Thus saith the LORD, Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren: return every man to his house: for this thing is done of me. And they obeyed the words of the LORD, and returned from going against Jeroboam."

II Chronicles 11:1-4

Later in his reign, Rehoboam turned from the ways of God, and the Lord sent judgment upon him and all Israel:

“And it came to pass, when Rehoboam had established the kingdom, and had strengthened himself, he forsook the law of the LORD, and all Israel with him.

And it came to pass, that in the fifth year of king Rehoboam, Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, because they had transgressed against the LORD,

With twelve hundred chariots, and threescore thousand horsemen: and the people were without number that came with him out of Egypt; the Lubims, the Sukkiims, and the Ethiopians.

And he took the fenced cities which pertained to Judah, and came to Jerusalem.” II Chronicles 12:1-4

Rehoboam humbled himself, and God did not allow the Egyptians to destroy Judah; but Shishak did take the treasures of the Lord’s house and the king’s house. Included in those treasures were the shields of gold that Solomon had made. Rehoboam then replaced those shield with shields of brass. These shields remind us of the shield of faith that is part of the whole armor 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.

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

And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

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

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

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;” Ephesians 6:13-18

Like Solomon’s shields of gold, we must strive to keep our faith golden (perfect), and not let our faith become tarnished and like the shields of brass (fleshly) that Rehoboam had made. We put

cannot keep our faith perfect, as the kings could not; but we must look to the One who did have perfect faith in God. The Lord Jesus is He whom we strive to pattern our lives after, but only He was able to conquer His flesh. Through His perfected faith, He was able to do the will of God to completion, and thus become the Prince of Peace, rather than a fleshly king whose faith wavers.

E.J.M.

### PURPOSED IN HEART

In the book of Daniel we read of the circumstances surrounding those in bondage at Babylon, who like Daniel desired to be obedient to their God, and so were greatly blessed as they sojourned among a heathen nation.

What can we learn from their example to help us during our sojourn? Our trials are not of the magnitude of Daniel's but we are given a glimpse of why he was helped:

"But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself."

Daniel 1:8.

Daniel as a faithful Israelite observed the law of clean and unclean meats as set forth by the Almighty. The Babylonians did not recognize such restrictions and so among the foods set before Daniel and his three friends would be that which an Israelite would consider unclean. Yet, though a captive, Daniel "purposed in his heart" to serve his God and not defile himself with the king's meat, that he might know the help and presence of God.

Because of his faithful determination, God's hand moved for good toward him:

"Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs."

Daniel 1:9.

God caused Daniel to find favor with his captors because he had purposed in his heart to be obedient. We know of the difficult circumstances Daniel and his three friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah faced, yet throughout, God was also strong on their behalf and brought them into favour with the king who was impressed by their forthright faith.

We think also of Noah who witnessed against the wickedness of his generation for one hundred and twenty years and because of his determination and purpose found favor with God:

“...Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.” Genesis 6:9.

His walk or way of life was consistent with what God desired, for the Scriptures confirm that

“... Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.” Genesis 6:8.

He was helped and delivered from the evil around him because his heart was purposed toward God.

Turning now to Moses whose experiences reveal his concern when God commanded that he lead His people out of Egypt:

“And Moses said unto the LORD, See, thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people: and thou has not let me know whom thou wilt send with me. Yet thou hast said, I know thee by name, and thou hast also found grace in my sight. Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people.” Exodus 33:12-13.

Moses was known by the Almighty because of his desire for God’s presence with him; even as Noah had done, he sought God’s guidance and direction in all his living. As He was with Daniel, Noah and Moses, so will He surely be with those today whose heart’s commitment is to serve him, no matter what the personal cost. This can be done and we may ask, how were these faithful men able to

down the inclinations of their flesh? Solomon in his wisdom helps:

“Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:  
So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.” Proverbs 3:3-4.

If as Solomon’s says, mercy and truth are within the heart, God’s pre-eminence will be reflected in one’s living and thus give honor and glory to the Father who will in return grant His favor and care.

What a witness these men were, not only to God’s people then and now, but to those observant around them.

Speaking of wisdom Solomon said:

“Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.  
For who so findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD.” Proverbs 8:34-35.

True wisdom is God’s word put into use by those who strive to serve and please Him, enabling the heart to be fixed in purpose upon righteousness, desiring to move faithfully as did Daniel, Noah and Moses.

We see in the Lord Jesus the ultimate example of purposeful godly living even at the tender age of twelve. He had accompanied His family to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover, but instead of returning home with them, stayed behind questioning the learned men at the temple. His parents, naturally worried because of His absence, did not understand that already He had set His heart to do the will of His Father in heaven:

“And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father’s business?  
And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.” Luke 2:49,52.

Prior to His crucifixion as He and the twelve gathered to eat the passover He spoke:

Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.

“...With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: for I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”

Luke 22:15-16.

The surrendering of His life as the perfect sacrifice was near at hand, the final requirement of His Father's will and so in agony praying for help, He concluded, “not my will but thine be done”. No matter what the cost, He purposed in His heart to obey and so “with desire” or purpose. He shared that last feast of love with His disciples, girding Himself for the final trial that lay ahead.

Because Daniel, Noah and Moses were determined in heart they were also separated from the evil in the world around them, hedged about and protected because of their faithfulness. Noah and his household were saved from the flood of destructions sent upon the rest of the world. Moses and the children of Israel were separated and cared for as they travelled through that terrible wilderness to the land of promise. Daniel and his three friends separated themselves, doing God's will while living as subjects among a heathen nation. Their living glorified God and was evidence to those about them of their determined service to the Almighty.

What help is available in these last days as we in zealous purpose of heart seek to guide our lives according to His wisdom, toward the promised hope which has sustained our brethren's commitment to God through the ages.

**“HEAP COALS OF FIRE ON HIS HEAD”**

**Romans 12:20**

Paul in this twelfth chapter of Romans is writing to his Roman brethren to remind them of their duties in walking acceptably after the precepts of God and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. All in the body have different gifts and Paul reminds them to practice such with perfect faith:

“So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;

Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.” Romans 12:5-8

To keep these guidelines in mind is to give glory to God for the gifts He has granted in His grace, and conforming to His plan for us, while not conforming to the world’s standards:

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that he 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

Paul goes on to enumerate the spiritual characteristics to be nurtured within one who endeavors to be pleasing to the Father:

“Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil: cleave to that which is good.

Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not."

Romans 12:9-14

It is difficult to be "peaceable with all men" as is declared in the 18th verse, because not everyone endeavors to be of a spiritual mind or to be peaceable in return. But perhaps the most difficult of all is spoken of in verse 19:

"Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."  
Romans 12:19

It is the flesh's thinking to do the same or worse to the one who has hurt you, but Paul is writing in the spirit of Christ, not to react in kind - for this would be displeasing to God nor be walking after Christ's example:

"Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."  
Romans 12:20-21

God knows the heart, and if we extend kindness to one who considers us their enemy, what a powerful witness of our faith and love this displays - returning goodness and kindness to those who do not the same to us. God will reward us for this effort, even if our "so-called" enemy does not.

During His Sermon on the Mount, the Lord Jesus outlined the spiritual aspects of the Law:

"Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.  
But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;  
That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.  
For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? Do not even the publicans the same?"

And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? Do not even the publicans so?  
Be therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.”  
Matthew 5:43-48

How perfectly the Lord has added the spirit of love within the framework of the Law. Life is a time of testing and full of areas where we need to restrain our natural inclinations - it becomes a constant battle between the flesh nature and the spirit of love as taught by the Father and exemplified in the spirit of Christ.

David was one who was persecuted by many throughout his life. He learned to lean on God for protection and care rather than taking vengeance for himself:

“Deliver me O LORD, from the evil man: preserve me from the violent man;  
Which imagine mischiefs in their heart; continually are they gathered together for war.  
They have sharpened their tongues like a serpent; adders' poison is under their lips. Selah.  
Keep me, O LORD, from the hands of the wicked; preserve me from the violent man; who have purposed to overthrow my goings.  
I said unto the LORD, Thou art my God: hear the voice of my supplications, O LORD.”  
Psalm 140:1-4,6

David knew that God would protect him and take his part against those who wished him harm. With this mindset he was able to restrain himself, trusting that God knew his situation and would recompense in His own time.

Naturally it is hard to restrain our flesh nature by overcoming evil with good and exercise kindness to those who would do us harm. Yet, if like David we can remember that God does know and will recompense our gentleness as we endeavor to walk after His Word and the example set by His Son.

M.C.S.

The Lord Jesus knew the mind of that lawyer and used this

A BIBLE CLASS

**“Who Is My Neighbour?”**

We see from the context of this tenth chapter of Luke that a lawyer had posed a question to the Lord Jesus asking, what must be done to inherit eternal life? Jesus in return asked, “what is written in the law?” The man knowing the law answered:

“...Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.” Luke 10:27.

But he then went on to ask, “... who is my neighbour?” To illustrate, Jesus told a parable of a man travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho, who falling among thieves was beaten, robbed and left for dead. Along the way passed in turn a priest and a Levite, both Hebrews who though teachers of the law, passed by without rendering help. The third to pass was a Samaritan, one normally despised by the Jews, who took compassion upon the man, dressed his wounds and brought him to an inn and paid for his care. Jesus then asked the lawyer:

“Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?  
And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.” Luke 10:36-37.

His parable taught about the practical application of the spirit of the law - the reflection of compassion and kindness to others as is seen in the Almighty.

The lawyer may have kept the law in the letter, but the Lord Jesus in giving this example, taught of the spirit and the necessity to reflect the love of God to others.

To further illustrate the spiritual context of neighbor or one nearby, we read another example in the Lord Jesus' teaching:

“While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him.  
Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy

brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee.  
But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?  
And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!  
For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.”  
Matthew 12:46-50.

This example illustrates that the aspect of neighbor or brother goes beyond the closeness of one’s family, extending not only to the household of faith but to any in need. When the lawyer said, “who is my neighbour?” was he not being exacting, perhaps pinpointing his obligation, lest he do more than was required? The Lord Jesus purposely used the example of a priest and a Levite - two knowing the requirements of the law who yet turned away, while the lowly Samaritan, one with whom the Jewish lawyer would not normally associate, was the bestower of compassion and mercy, thus illustrating that knowing the law was not enough.

The lawyer’s object was to tempt or test the Lord Jesus, not to learn, for we are given a glimpse of his real spirit:

“But he willing to justify himself said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?”  
Luke 10:29.

To justify means to be righteous and makes us think of the publican and Pharisee who went into the temple to pray:

“The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.  
I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.  
And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.  
I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”  
Luke 18:11-14.

situation to teach his disciples and us today of the importance of showing compassion to all. This lawyer would be an expert in the law but he did not perceive the spirit of love which it taught.

In the book of Micah, recorded hundreds of years before the birth of the Lord Jesus, the prophet reflected the same mind of the Spirit:

“Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” Micah 6:7-8.

Micah taught, as did the Lord Jesus, of the need “to do justly” unto others, not justify oneself as the lawyer attempted.

There is much help here for us today from a practical viewpoint in discerning “who is my neighbor”. Naturally those of the household of faith - our brethren and sisters - are the recipients of our love and care, but good works should not be limited to them alone but done for any in need. It may even be that a kindness done may be remembered, moving one to respond to the gospel message.

The greatest example of a good neighbor was the Lord Jesus who laid down His life as a perfect sacrifice for any who would believe on Him. The example of the kindly Samaritan is a help today, reminding us to do likewise, especially when we may be tempted to pass on by as did the priest and the Levite.

NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR APRIL 2013

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 fairly cold winter, we look forward to the warm days of spring as it signals the rebirth of God's creation. The various seasons have their meaning to those sensitive to the handiwork of God, reminding us of the unchangeableness of the Almighty. We can take solace and hope in the power of God to fulfil His Word.

Our thoughts and prayers are very much with our like-minded brethren in our struggle Zion-ward. May we be helped to overcome in the great mercy of God.

M.C.S.

MANCHESTER

Sunday: Breaking of Bread 11:30 am

Thursday: Bible Class 2:00 pm

As the days move on it is again the time for our Manchester Ecclesial news. We are greatly helped in so many ways and so our magazine continues and, what is more, this work helps with the bonding of our Ecclesias. Much provision comes from our Heavenly Father who in His omniscience looks down upon us and so we continue in Faith in the goodness of our calling.

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

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