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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"

THEY CEASED NOT TO TEACH AND PREACH

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A BIBLE CLASS -
OBEY THEM THAT HAVE THE RULE OVER YOU...

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NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS

All Communications

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THEY CEASED NOT TO TEACH AND PREACH

In our recent portions from the Book of Acts, the faithful witnessing of the early apostles resulted in the addition of many followers because they were endowed with miraculous power - the gift of the Holy Spirit:

“And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon’s porch.

And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them.

And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.) Acts 5:12-14

With the power of the Spirit bestowed, God’s hand worked so that they could preach the gospel message accompanied by miracles of healing. People would see these wonders and thus believe in the gospel message:

“Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.

There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.”

Acts 5:15-16

If we had lived during that time, what a stir this would have made to see these men performing miracles of healing (perhaps on us or family members) and fearlessly preaching the gospel message of the kingdom of God through the name of Jesus Christ, in the presence of those who openly opposed them.

“Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with indignation,

and laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison.”

Acts 5:17-18

Undoubtedly the high priest and Jewish elders thought they could stamp out the apostle’s teaching, as they had tried to put an end to the witness of the Lord Jesus. However, because God was with them, the prison could not hold them against the power of jealous men:

“But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said, Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.” Acts 5:19-20

The very next morning after being released from prison, they heeded the charge given them, and even with the prospect of persecution, preached the gospel to all who would hear.

Even in the face of their miraculous release, the priests and elders summoned them to be brought before them, refusing to heed or question if these men were being helped of God:

“And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them, Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to brine this man’s blood upon us.”

Acts 5:27-28

No truer words were spoken - for it was the hierarchy of the Jews that had plotted and manipulated the Lord Jesus’ death at the hand of the Romans, in an attempt to stop His ministry. They knew they were responsible! Now they feared because of the growing multitudes that believed the apostles’ teaching of Jesus as the crucified and risen Savior. Even in light of the council’s threats, these faithful apostles would not capitulate:

“Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.

Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.”

Acts 5:29-32

How could God’s power with them be overlooked as many saw the infirm cured? To men, the easiest way to rid oneself of a problem is to eliminate it - but these apostles persisted because God was with them.

“When they heard that, they were cut to the heart, and took counsel to slay them.”

Acts 5:33

The high priests and council were ashamed, for they had been established as God's ministers to preach His word, but strayed from His precepts, keeping instead their own traditions as law. In the end, they killed His Son because He threatened their authority with the people.

They had set themselves up as Jewish nobility, to whom the common people looked to as their spiritual rulers. Yet here were common men of the people -fishermen and tax collectors with no background as spiritual teachers, who taught with power and courage coupled with miraculous healings. The elders could see their esteem and exalted position with the people eroding, and sought to kill them. However, one from their midst, a Pharisee called Gamaliel, cautioned a more conservative approach:

“And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought:

‘But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God.

And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.” Acts 5:38-40

The apostles endured the beatings and threats from the council but persisted in the work that God had given them:

“And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.” Acts 5:41-42

Today, God looks for that same persistence and courage in His people, and as the Lord Jesus sent His disciples out into the world to teach of Him, He also warned of the dangers they would face:

“Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues;

And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.

But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye

shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.

For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.”
Matthew 10:16-20

The apostles had the spirit of God visibly working within them while the high priests and council were empty shells, lacking the spirit of Truth - mouthing the traditions of men as laws without love or mercy one for another.

What an inspiration in courage and persistence these early apostles were. They were dedicated to the charge of preaching the gospel of Christ given them, regardless of the persecution and tribulation which may occur. Their example is a life lesson for the brethren and sisters of Christ today, who desire to follow after the Lord's example and obey God in a spirit of sincerity and truth while rejecting the traditions of men.

M.C.S.

WISDOM OF GOD

In a recent reading in I Kings, we are told how Solomon was given wisdom from God:

“And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore.

And Solomon’s wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt.

For he was wiser than all men; than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman and Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol: and his fame was in all nations round about.

And he spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five.

And he spake of trees, from the cedar tree of Lebanon even unto the hyssop that springeth out of the wall: he spake also of beasts, and of fowl, and of creeping things, and of fishes.

And there came of all people to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all kings of the earth, which had heard of his wisdom.”

I Kings 4:29-34

Such wisdom allowed Solomon to write many inspired words that feed us today; but even with all that wisdom, Solomon could not stop the flesh from pulling him away from God. It is the wisdom and knowledge applied to the doing of God’s will that gives us hope. By fearing God, we demonstrate our willingness to accept His plan for us, while trying not to fail Him:

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.” Proverbs 1:7

“The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.” Proverbs 15:33

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.” Psalm 111:10

By allowing Godly fear to reign in us, we demonstrate a proper conviction to God, and thus show our willingness for His wisdom to rule us, rather than our own.. Through the fear of God, we can apply the wisdom

that we have gained to keep God's commandments. Without the fear of God within us, we apply our own wisdom in our lives, and we know that we will be judged by our works:

“And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea he gave good heed, and sought out, and set in order many proverbs.

The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that which was written was upright, even words of truth.

The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd.

And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh. Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.”

Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

We need the wisdom of God to show us His way. By seeking that wisdom we demonstrate an understanding that it is only through God's wisdom that we can be strengthened against the fleshly man within:

“My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;

So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to under - standing;

Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.

For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.

He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints. Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.

When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;

Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:

To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things.” Proverbs 2:1-12

“The way of the evil man” might speak of keeping us from the influence of men’s ways; but more likely it speaks of harm that our own fleshly tendencies bring about by not seeking God’s wisdom. Paul spoke in a like manner regarding coming to his Corinthian brethren, with only the knowledge of Jesus and the power of God as his methods of teaching:

“And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.

That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.” I Corinthians 2:1-5

Paul also was pleased that the Ephesians had maintained their faith in the Lord Jesus, so that God could continue to give them His wisdom:

“Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all saints,

Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

Far about all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,
Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.”
Ephesians 1:1 5-23

James also tells us to act in faith as we seek God, and ask for His wisdom:

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.
But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.
For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.”
James 1:5-7

The Lord will give His wisdom to all who ask in faith, and with a sincere and steady heart. The perfect example of One being granted God’s wisdom is the Lord Jesus. At the early age of twelve He was found within the temple seeking wisdom and astonishing those who heard Him with His understanding. We know that we fall far short of the Lord Jesus; but His example shows us what can be accomplished with a singular faith in God, as we seek Him and His wisdom.

E.J.M.

NOTHING DOUBTING

The need for God's guidance and direction has been a hallmark throughout the ages for those that God has called as His people. This was also the case for Peter, as we read the record concerning Cornelius, the Gentile whom God called to be a member of His household.

Cornelius was a devout man who had prayed for guidance, earnestly seeking a way that the God of Israel might become a part of his living. Because of his fervent prayers, he was given a vision from God:

“He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius. And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? and he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.

and now send to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter:

He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do. Acts 10:3-6

Peter had also received a vision from God in order to prepare him to receive Cornelius' messengers, for Peter as a Jew would not normally receive into his company a Gentile. This was a great departure from what was familiar to him and initially he had great doubts, even after receiving the vision sent to instruct him:

“(Peter) saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:

Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean.

And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.

This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven.” Acts 10:11-16

Jews were forbidden to eat any animal, fowl or fish that was ordained “unclean”, according to the dietary guidelines under the Law of Moses.

Therefore, we can understand Peter's refusal to eat such, as commanded in the vision. This would be a shocking departure from the norm and therefore the vision was- repeated three times to impress upon Peter its importance. He must have been both amazed and wondering what this vision could mean, yet upon waking was told the men sent by Cornelius waited at his door to speak with him.

“Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made enquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate,”
Acts 1:17

Here was a situation where God's guidance and direction was needed by Peter and was provided in a miraculous way.

After Cornelius and those with him had received the Word of Truth from Peter, they were baptized. When Peter's brethren heard of these events, they questioned why Peter had preached God's Word unto Gentiles. However, after hearing all the circumstances - his vision, the preaching to Cornelius' household, the visitation of the Holy Spirit upon them, as upon the apostles earlier, their doubts were removed:

“When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying Then bath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.”
Acts 11:18

Peter had been told of the Spirit to accompany the men taking him to Cornelius - “nothing doubting”. This phrase means, “make no difference” for here a difference was being made in the direction that God's word was to take - not only to the Jews, but now to the Gentiles as well was His saving grace extended. Peter and those with him would remember the Lord Jesus' words and see the fulfillment of them beginning:

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” John 3:16-17

“I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.”

John 12:46-47

The Lord Jesus witnessed that He was that light and was preaching God’s word and not His own. He was to be the Savior not only to the Jews but to the world.

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Because of the heavenly guidance given to Peter, he could now say with confidence:

“...Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:) Acts 10:34-36

Peter had come to steadfastly believe these words, not just in theory as he had first heard, but now in reality with the coming of Cornelius to the body of Christ. This was the beginning of the work started by the apostles to any who will hear, until the end of God’s purpose, when His word will go out to all the world that the only path of salvation given by God is through belief in Him and His Son the Lord Jesus.

The Apostle Paul was once conformed to the thinking of the world and the Jewish letter of the law, but his mind was transformed by the vision given him on the way to Damascus, to think differently and turn from the spiritual destructive path he was on. He could later then encourage his Roman brethren on their path of life, through belief in the Lord Jesus Christ:

“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 12:2

To present one’s life as a living sacrifice is to yield to God’s word -

to think differently from that which is natural to the man of flesh, and as Peter came to realize, to follow God's guidance and not our own preconceived notions of what we may think is right. God looks upon the heart and sees within, knowing if one can be turned to serve Him. God's desire is that all come to a knowledge of Him, believing in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ who is the end of His word - that will made perfect through faithful obedience.

We must ask ourselves every day - are we following God's will and direction or being led by our own?

M.C.S.

“OBEY THEM THAT HAVE THE RULE OVER YOU...”
Hebrews 13:17

Paul in his letter to the Hebrew brethren reminds them to consider their place in the household of God, particularly giving heed to the instruction of the Spirit, that they stay within the care of the Almighty. One facet of this advice is seen in verse 7 of chapter 13 in regard to elders where he exhorts:

“Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.”

The end of this conversation, speaking of the gospel, is of course the promise of a place in the Kingdom of God. Any deemed worthy of holding the office of an elder, one who spreads that word, would strive to be a shepherd, setting a good example in his living that others might follow. Likewise, those walking in the responsibility as elders gain respect for their care and labor in God’s house as this work is carried out to honor the Almighty in love for their brethren and sisters. I Timothy 3:1-6 defines the office of a bishop or elder as follows:

“This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;
Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;
One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;
(For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)
Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.
Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.”

Verse 17 of Hebrews 13 under consideration then adds to this thought:

“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for this is unprofitable for you.”

To “rule over” means “to lead” and ties in with the thought of verse 7, “whose faith follow”. The thought of being “over” is not in a sense of overbearing or with Nicolaitanism (as lords over God’s heritage) but as the Lord Jesus is over the house of God, a bishop is a shepherd over his sheep who must exercise care for their wellbeing.

The word obey is used here as to agree, to yield to be convinced, giving a feeling of unity and trust to be built up between those who love one another. James 3:3 perhaps shows this application of the word “obey”:

“Behold we put bits in the horses’ mouths, that they may obey us; an we urn about their whole body.”

A horse will obey as a man guides and leads with the reins and it is in the same vein of thought that we read of the house of God respecting and following faithful elders who have the responsibility to guide them.

The scriptures speak of Ezekiel sent by God as a watchman to the house of Israel, and held accountable for their instruction. Yet in the household of God we are in essence all watchmen as we help one another along that straight and narrow way, for we are our brother’s keeper.

“Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.

When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.”
Ezekiel 3:17-19

The same relationship is seen in the house of God as mentioned in I Thessalonians 5:11-13:

“Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake. And be at peace among yourselves.”

Elders being human can fail; we think of David and Peter as examples of two who did. God realized this would happen and made provision for this occurrence as recorded in I Timothy 5:1:

“Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father: and the younger men as brethren.”

“Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.”

I Timothy 5:17

“Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.”

I Timothy 5:19

An elder can fail if he leads according to his own purposes instead of in God’s way. However, because of the respect his work should receive, an elder when he fails, should be entreated with love.

Only one has never failed and how fitting that He is called the Good Shepherd. Peter exhorts as an elder, giving clear guidelines of how the flock of God should be led with responsibility and love.

“The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly: not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

Neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.”

I Peter 5:1-4

This spirit of obedience to those that have the rule is seen perfectly applied in the example of the Lord Jesus, who gave all of His obedience unto His Father. In that same spirit all of God’s children are to regard their position within the house of God. As this message is valued and practiced, the true essence of fellowship can be experienced in being guided unto eternal life in God’s kingdom, where those judged worthy will rule with Christ as elders, kings and priests over God’s heritage.

BE SOBER AND WATCHFUL UNTO PRAYER

In the first epistle of Peter to his brethren, we read of the help given those he called the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia. His desire in writing this letter was obviously to remind them of the great hope that was to be found in an understanding and application of God's word to their living, which could result in the salvation granted in the last times to those found approved as mentioned in chapter 1 verse 5:

“Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

This salvation granted in the last time of course will be bestowed by the Lord Jesus upon His return as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, a title made possible by His overcoming during His lifetime on earth. In contemplation of this we are told in the 17th verse of chapter 4:

“For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God:
and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?
And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?”

This provides much food for thought. That the righteous will scarcely, or with difficulty be saved reveals what is to be experienced during one's time of probation, It is with difficulty that the hope of salvation, to be revealed in the last days, is secured. To assist in this struggle, Peter reveals the help of the power of God which is close at hand as he says in Verse 7 of chapter 4:

“But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.”

Peter was exhorting that there will be an end and the wise recognizing that it is nigh at hand, will endeavour to follow the Father's precepts in their living today. He tells us to be sober and watch unto prayer. To be sober means to be sound-minded perceiving what is required to give ones living to God. Watching to prayer conveys the constant need to communicate with God - something He looks for in His people. To be

therefore sober and watchful unto prayer is to circumspectly communicate with God, opening the heart and mind to Him as a little child. We know the lord Jesus exercised that communication throughout His ministry for He often sought the help of God in prayer. Why is it necessary to pray since God knows our hearts and minds and our every need? To submit to Him in prayer is a revealing of faith, for through such openness of mind we ask His help and intervention, believing it will be performed as it is His will. As we pray we must also remember the needs of others, asking for their strength and help from God as there is also a coming alongside in practical ways to ease their load if we can. This is faith with works.

We remember the trial of Jonah who was afraid to face up to the difficult requirements placed upon him by God, yet in the midst of it all had a change of heart as Jonah chapter 2:1-2 tells us:

“Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish’s belly, And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice.”

When he knew there was no way out of his predicament, Jonah turned to God for help and sought His mercy as the 7th verse says:

“When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple.”

How needful in trial it is to look to God, yet how equally important it is to do so when not in adversity lest we lose sight of the hope held out.

What is required to be sober and watchful in prayer? Each time we approach to God in prayer we must remember the provision of the Lord Jesus, our intercessor, through whom our words can be heard by the Father. Like Jesus, we know God sees what is in our heart, yet the exercising of submission and faith in prayer demonstrates our desire to please Him and be known as His people. The 5th chapter of Peter’s epistle provides much help as we are told how we can prove our soberness in verses 6-7:

“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:
Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”

Here perhaps is the essence of life within the understanding of God's Truth - to humble oneself in recognition that He will exalt, is to prepare for the return of the Lord Jesus, applying now in ones living those things that He has taught.

We are told by Paul in Philippians 4:6-7:

“Be careful for no thing but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

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

There can no real help be given if there is no seeking of that care and mercy provided through the Lord Jesus. This is why Paul reminds us that we make known to God our needs, a mindfulness that we know He is near at hand and can help. How important this recognition is, for we can only hope in God's mercy as we apply prayer as the channel to reveal to Him our heart and show how we are humbling ourselves under His hand. James 4:6-7 speaks of this humility:

“...God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God.”

If we can yield to Him, praying with a right mind, we can be helped and sustained knowing that the time is at hand when the ultimate purpose of God will be accomplished. How needful it is to value the time that God gives us, to value the opportunity given to humble ourselves and look to Him, allowing our cares to a into His hands through prayer, rather than taking the view that “God knows what I need.’

There is no hope without a struggle, no real sustenance without God's help and grace through His Son. This is what Peter was attempting to convey as he says in chapter 5 verse 10:

“But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.”

To be perfect, established, and settled are qualities of the spirit, devoid of all fleshly thinking, for the carnal mind can never achieve perfection, nor be strengthened or settled, for it resists these qualities. Yet with humility there can be a valuing of how God shapes His people through trial to make

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them more spiritual in character. How thankful we should be for the words of Peter as we value the need to be sober, recognizing all things are at hand, and make known through our requests unto God by prayer the help we need as we struggle to be saved.

NEWS FROM THE ECCLESIAS FOR FEBRUARY 2014

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

We are saddened by the passing of our brother Dennis Lancaster on February 28th. His ministrations to the Manchester Ecclesia and counsel with us over many years, continued right into his 90th year. We will truly miss his kind ways and his love for the Truth, which leaves us with a fine example of faith. Our prayers are with those left behind, who with him, await the return of the Lord Jesus and the Kingdom of God.

M.C.S.

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

www.remnantofchristseclesia.com