



Timothy Germain

WALKING AMIDST
THE GOLDEN
CANDLESTICKS

The Pursuit of God Restoring His Glory

Walking Amidst The Golden Candlesticks Final

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Walking Amidst the Golden Candlesticks

The Pursuit of God

By Timothy Germain

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to my wife Elizabeth Germain, who, with her love, prayers, support and dying breath, gave me more than I can ever express. I will love you forever and a day, dear!

To my daughter Rachel and Son-in-law Zachary, who, without their support, this book could not have been completed. To all the brothers who we have walked with over the space of two decades, as the LORD's Ekklesia in our city and throughout different parts of Ontario, thanks be unto God!

Introduction

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The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants' things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand. John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou see, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia: unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. And I turned to see the voice that Spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter; The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches. (Revelation 1:1-20)

Jesus In Our Midst

The image of the golden candlesticks, in the book of Revelation, provides a spiritual picture for all who have eyes to see; a snapshot of spiritual realities. Can His glory be seen again? Can the purpose of God's people on the earth be realized in its fullness? Who will benefit from this book? If you have been in Christ for more than five years, you will have noticed that what is called "church" has many factions, divisions, sects and denominations, and its message has many contradictions and is very confusing! This book will describe the problem and provide the solutions to bring the needed changes. It will be up to you to examine the details and prayerfully seek God to provide you with how to apply the solution. The problem that I will discuss applies to the whole world of what is called church. The problem is not just with one religious group or denomination, but is pervasive throughout all of Christendom. The solution is applicable to everyone, everywhere, around the globe.

If we are regenerated by His Spirit in our hearts, Jesus promised that, if we continue in His Word, then we are His disciples indeed and that we shall know the truth and the truth shall make us free. And, whom the Son sets free is FREE indeed! Free from what? Free from the spirit of religion, pomp and ceremony, prideful religiosity, lifeless formality, man-centred programs, dead ritual as well as the tax-incentivized, obligatory tithing scheme that keeps it all going. He sets us free from spiritual captivity that has largely produced mostly spiritual infants. Ultimately, the power of the law of Life in Christ Jesus sets us free from the law of sin and death. Praise His mighty name!

Christendom is a religious system where man, not Christ, is pre-eminent. There are principalities that are working amidst the candlesticks. If these principalities are cast out, and if we, the LORD's people, will humble ourselves, repent of our wicked ways and turn to Him with all our hearts, we can fully expect God to enter our world of spiritual captivity, bring us out of spiritual Babylon, and restore His glory and presence. To this end I have written each chapter to describe the problem and to offer the solution.

The Apostle Paul admonishes us that, just as it cost Jesus everything, in fulfilling His mission to leave the realms of glory and come to the earth to be the supreme sacrifice for our sin, so it will also cost US everything to fulfill His mission for, in and through us, to be His Body, His Ekklesia in the earth. However, we have His precious promise that just as He is, so are we in this world, and we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. I pray the Holy Spirit will open the eyes of our understanding that we might clearly see the problem, and that will give us His abundant grace to apply the solution.

Chapter One

Roots Of Today's Apostasy

A Glimpse at Yesterday's Roots of Today's Apostasy - Babylon's Curse Ravages God's Spurned People.

Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words. It came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. They said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly." And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar. They said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." The LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. The LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them. Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another's speech." So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city. Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.. (Genesis 11:1-9 NASB)

The story of the tower of Babel is the story of man's attempt to make a city and a tower that would reach unto heaven to make themselves a name.

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These people are no different than those who create denominations. They give themselves a name. There have been some forty-five thousand different denominations and churches. They each demonstrate the same spirit of division, ambition and carnal thinking. Each one dividing from one another. Each one refuses to give way to the Spirit of God for He would never separate the one body of Christ. Each registers themselves as a corporation (legal faction, a person) with governments! Since when did the government have anything to do with an assembly of God's people?

Money is the lifeblood of these organizations, and the underlying motivation of those who run these worldly corporations. Their property is tax-exempt. They hand out tax receipts to anyone who contributes to the corporation. Egypt is in bed with the reprobate people of God who reject the counsel and commandments of Christ. As the churches become conformed to the world of commerce, their spiritual effectiveness wanes. They become legally beholden to the world and its immoral value system. For example, churches can be sued for not marrying homosexuals since they have signed a contract to become legal agents of the state. The funds that these non-profit organizations receive can only be used in accordance with what the government allows. Over the centuries, the church system has moved farther and farther from Father's heart, and desire for His people, the Ekklesia, that Jesus came to build in the earth. Not only have the gates of hell prevailed against her, but she has become utterly impotent to assail them in the first place!

Some Preparatory Scriptures- a Biblical Appraisal of God's People

"Cry aloud, spare not. Lift up thy voice like a trumpet and show my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins. Yet they 'seek' me daily and 'delight' to know my ways as a nation that did righteousness and forsook not the ordinance of their God: they 'ask' of me the ordinances of justice: they take delight in approaching to God." (Isa. 58:1-2)

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“Behold, the LORD’S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood and your fingers with iniquity your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness. None calleth for justice nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity and speak lies they conceive mischief and bring forth iniquity. They hatch cockatrice eggs and weave the spider’s web: he that eateth of their eggs dieth and that which is crushed breaketh out into a viper. Their webs shall not become garments, neither shall they cover themselves with their works: their works are works of iniquity and the act of violence is in their hands. Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity: wasting and destruction are in their paths. The way peace they know not: and there is no judgement in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace. Therefore, is judgement far from us. Neither doth justice overtake us, we wait for light, but behold obscurity: for brightness, but we walk in darkness. We grope for the wall like the blind and we grope as if we had no eyes: we stumble at noon day as in the night: we are in desolate places as dead men. We roar all like bears and mourn sore like doves: we look for judgement, but there is none: for salvation, but it is far off from us. For our transgressions are multiplied before thee, and our sins testify against us: for our transgressions are with us: and as for our iniquities, we know them: In transgressing and lying against the LORD. and departing away from our God. speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood. And judgement is turned away backwards and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street and equity cannot enter. Yea truth faileth: and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey: and the LORD saw it and it displeased him that there was no judgement.” (Isa 59:1-15)

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“So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him. And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob saith the LORD: My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of thy mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed’s seed saith the LORD. from henceforth and forever. Arise, shine: for thy light is come and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee and his glory shall be seen upon thee.” (Isa 59:19-21; 60:1-2)

NOTE: The very same demonic influences that conspired to erect the Tower of Babel have maintained their control over the world down through the ages through.... Mystery Babylon (Esoteric Occultism) and Babylon city (Multinational Finance and Commerce) ...as exemplified by the Whore Mystery Babylon, seated on the seven-headed beast of Revelation 17 and 18. Their influence over Christendom is strong as we will show in this book.

Subjugated to Mystery Babylon - Serious Consequences for Minor Offenses

The predecessors of vast sectors of the Evangelical Church world long ago were turned over to spiritual captivity. They were placed under many of the influences of the same Babylonian spirit of religion that made the Roman Catholic Church a mighty instrument in the hands of Satan, and a major stronghold over God's people since its inception in 380 CE.

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THE EARLY CHURCH UNDER SIEGE The Babylonian/Roman spirits' assault was launched near the outset of the early Church. Their Subversions were unleashed on various fronts: The Judaizers (whose roots went back to the Babylonian Talmud) were used to negate the efficacy of faith in Christ's full provision for sinful man...replacing it with a return to the legalistic bondage of the Old Testament Mosaic law. "The Nicolaitans fostered the separation of clergy and laity with its ecclesiastical, hierarchic structuring; An intermediary ministerial body to officiate between the Godhead and the members, the use of administered "sacraments" to justify their "superior' status, and the passive paying of spectator-devotees. False apostles, "Jezebels", dabblers in "the depths of Satan and others proficient in simulated giftings, foisted their way into influential church niches. The "Balaam merchants peddled whatever message they could make a living off of (whatever would "sell") among the churches.

Consider all the admonishments throughout the New Testament by Jesus and the apostles... Matthew 7:15-20 / Matthew 24:4-5,11,24 / Mark 13:22-23 / Luke 6:26 / Acts 20:29-30 / Romans 16:17-18 / 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 / Galatians 1:6-9 / Ephesians 4:14 / Colossians 2:8 / 2 Thessalonians 2:3-12 / 1 Timothy 1:3-7 / 1 Timothy 4:1-2 / 2 Timothy 3:13 / 2 Timothy 4:3-4 / Titus 1:10-11 / 2 Peter 2:1-3 / 2 Peter 3:16-17 / 1 John 2:18-19 / 1 John 4:1 / 2 John 1:7-10 / Jude 1:3-4 / Revelation 2:2 / Revelation 2:14-15 / Revelation 2:20 / Revelation 13:11-14 / Revelation 19:20.

NEGLIGENCE: Ignoring Christ's admonition to the Asian churches, and those of Jude and Peter, God's people refused to purge from their midst, nor did they close their doors to the adherents of corrosive teachings, seductive giftings and carnal lifestyles.

Undermined & Turned Over to Captivity

Within decades, in an orchestrated subversion, the Babylonian/Roman spirits had burrowed their way into the church through the agency of ambitious instrumentalities. In the following centuries, they overthrew Christianity and gained authoritarian control over her.

Repercussions

Over a millennium later, as the Reformation movement gathered momentum. The protesters against Catholicism sought to reform paganized Christianity rather than replace it with an entirely Biblical, Spiritual model. They shirked their primary responsibility to confront the sin and carnality that was invading the Church, particularly among the leadership. They retained numerous non-Biblical doctrines, traditions, and practices. Consequently, they permitted a bridge over which many Babylonian/Roman spirits crossed from Catholicism into Protestantism and subverted it.

Self-Perpetuating Curses

Neither the Protestant reformers nor their evangelical, Pentecostal and charismatic descendants have ever fully repudiated, severed or annulled the Babylonian/Roman spirits' access, influence and control over them. Nor have they discouraged the religious "system" those spirits propagate, all the while clothed in the sheep's clothing of Christianity. They have merely reformed paganized Christianity under the auspices of apparent Biblical authority. Thus the generational curse of Babylonian/Roman religiosity has continued up to now and is still perpetuated by most ministries, churches, movements, denominations and by Protestantism as a whole. With the advent of the protestant and evangelical movements, subsequently those focused on the Pentecostal and charismatic persuasions, the Babylonian/Roman spirits were only fettered or confined for a relatively short period of time.

Historically, we see that this same paganization occurred when Israel occupied Canaan, but failed to annihilate all of the Canaanite nations. She merely subjugated them only to have them later gain ascendancy and eventually overthrow her spiritually. Likewise, Protestantism's reformation merely occupied some of the Babylonian/Roman spirits' domain and "contained" them. They later corrupted Christ's followers, gained ascendancy, and spiritually overthrew them as well.

Babylon's Adopted Daughters

Most moves of God, even those outside the protestant and evangelical denominational system, that certainly began with a sincere return to, or genuine "revival" of a strong scriptural basis for their newfound beliefs and/or practices, eventually succumbed to the same spirit of religion they protested. They too eventually lost their spiritual distinctiveness, freedom and glory, ultimately being absorbed right back into the harlot's vast family. Much like what had happened to the early church after the first century, having begun "in the Spirit", they later continued "in the flesh", as it were. Through legalism and "dead letter" they fell into the exact form of godliness, losing the power of the Spirit, just as Paul the Apostle had sought to keep the Galatian Ekklesia from doing.

The Reviving of the Old Roman Spiritual Empire & the Churches' Unwitting Participation

An objective appraisal of today's trends in the churches and ministries demonstrates that those same Babylonian/Roman spirits are still hard at work. It's interesting to note that certain trends, seen in the reviving of the old Roman empire, in the political sphere, as preparations for the Antichrist's advent are being made, have their spiritual parallels, not only in liberal Protestantism, but now among many charismatic clusters as well as in the more conservative evangelical groups.

TOES OF IRON AND CLAY - ie. MAN-MADE UNITY There is an accelerating ecumenism, under banners such as "unity", apostleship, city-wide churches, networking, denominational stability, etc., giving little or no heed to "contending for the faith once delivered unto the saints." The man-made amalgamation of Christianity's "streams" by their leaders, networking together, these man-made networks are following the geo-political drift towards one-world unity. Humanly contrived, supported by "back-room" agreements, and implemented through trial and error, these sincere(?) efforts continually prove themselves to be spiritually futile and fraught with strong delusion. The antichrist's interests will find effective means to further compromise amalgamated Christianity and manipulate it in ways that will benefit his diabolical interests.

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PETER'S PROVERBS AMONG PROTESTANTS Among growing numbers, there is a drift towards more Romish liturgical forms of "worship" and their corresponding "Nicolaitan" ecclesiastical structures. [Consider 2 Pet. 2:11-19-20-21-22.]

SILVER AND GOLD HAVE WE MUCH Today's Christianity possesses an increasing abundance of material resources, finances and economic clout. She is becoming adept at the generation of, and a reliance on, profit margins. She is making use of filthy lucre to strengthen her footing within this world system, as a necessary and well-justified means to gain more followers.

PROPAGANDIST BRAINWASHING THE CHURCH: SPIRITS OF ERROR EVERYWHERE. Not unlike the media's barrage upon Western society, using blatant propaganda techniques, disseminating misinformation, opinion manipulation and values degradation, the enemy has launched a successful assault on the Church. The Spirit of Truth once given to the Church has long been supplanted by lying spirits of error. They are bringing an accelerating erosion of Truth's standards by credible, but ruinous distortions and compromises of the full gospel's requirements and promises. These subtle deceptions of the seducing spirits (through their "every wind of doctrine" and "doctrines of demons") are bearing fruit almost everywhere within Christendom. Indeed, they have effectively brought very convincing and widely accepted strong delusions over God's people everywhere. The New Age tolerance for everything except for the intolerant has been disseminated throughout the Church... sweeping away the gospel's absolutes, as well as the proclaimers thereof. Consider: [See... Jn. 4:6 / Tim. 4:1-2 / Eph. 4:14 / Jn. 8:47]

Spiritual Subversion Made Easy- Believing Every Spirit

The Babylonian/Roman spirits accomplished occult simulations of the gifts and ministries, attributed to the Holy Spirit's anointing have persuasively infiltrated the Church and deceived multitudes that bear Christ's Name. The Church has not tested every spirit, but rather has allowed almost anything supernatural, in many cases even the overtly occult, into the church and behind the pulpit, neither examining their fruits nor discerning their spiritual source.

Inadvertent Accomplices - the Sightless Parade

Sincere, but deceived, ministries trust and naively follow those they perceive to be their spiritual seniors. Not hearing from Heaven for themselves, nor gleaning from the Scriptures for themselves... they blindly mislead others... while they themselves are being misled. They recycle and repackage what others purport to have, duplicating and distributing cassettes, videos, books, magazine articles and seminars [Consider Jeremiah 23:30]. They ignore the admonition to the last day's Church, which warns that there will be false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you. Who privily (secretly) shall bring in (introduce) damnable heresies even denying the Lord that bought them and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways: by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of (Pet. 2:1-2). Also consider the remainder of the chapter... 2Peter. 2:3-22.

Key Truths Compromised

Even Carnality's hold on the soul and the condoning of sin among the general church membership can be traced indirectly to the doctrines tampered with by the Babylonian/Roman spirits. OH. FOR OPENED EYES!! The Babylonian/Roman spirits can be seen in their deceptive and manipulative work over many churches and ministries by some giftings of the Holy Spirit's discernment, empowered to peer into the spiritual dimension.

Chapter Two

Reflections

These REFLECTIONS are not meant to be definitive, but rather and, much like a road atlas would be, a guide to those whose destination is the same as ours. Only a few will truly benefit from them. Many may not understand some of these foundational considerations and some will conclude that my views are too extreme or radical for serious attention. Others will see their own comfortable, status quo Christianity threatened by the costly and uncompromising nature of “revival prerequisites” and discard them. There will be those in whose heart a witness will be borne by the Holy Spirit on many key points and will rejoice at hearing the convictions of their own heart echoed and perhaps pass this book around to others. However, only a few will take the adequate and persistent action necessary to appropriately pursue “revival” in their own local context, as suggested. Of their number the dropout percentage rate may likely be alarmingly high.

Once the nature of “revival” is more fully understood, the pursuit those few will enter into can be likened to the merchant who sought to obtain “the pearl of great price.” The only way to acquire it is to “sell all” (Mt. 13:46). To truly experience “revival” requires that one give “everything”! Consequently, the doorway to it is quite restrictive. How sobering Christ’s words are, especially in this Laodicean age.

“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. Because strait is the gate and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and FEW there be that find it.” (Mt. 7:13-14) “STRIVE to enter in at the strait gate: for many I say unto you will seek to enter in, and SHALL NOT BE ABLE.” (Luk. 13:24)

Of the seemingly countless multitudes that received Christ’s touch and teaching during His earthly tour, only 120 pressed through to become the initial recipients and channels of the fullness He came to give. Again, today, it will be only those of that “upper-room 120 calibre” that will press through to the fullness of the real thing, while many others will only be partakers of its derivatives.

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An objective and knowledgeable assessment needs to be made regarding the current wineskins and garments in use to diagnose what it is that His people need to see “repaired” and what it is that they need to see entirely “replaced”. The attachment of His people to their “dependable” wineskins, and their tattered “comfy” garments, makes them indisposed to relinquish them. Generally they prefer to mend, rather than exchange them, with a “state-of-the-art” replacement. If their prayers are trite and self-serving, according to religiosity’s conditioning, when HE is only predisposed to replace their religious prayers with simply the presence of Christ Himself, then their intercessory efforts are certainly an exercise in futility. If He rules the former out, and He most certainly has, then His people will only hear from Heaven once they tell the “Dealer” that they will only be satisfied with the replacement option.

Some may regard my critique of Today’s Church as inconsequential. To others, this section may prove to be too incisive, causing them offence, fully persuaded that full true “revival” can be brought to bear on that which here is presented as reprobate. Should the reader encounter excessive difficulty with the grim views presented here, he or she is encouraged to continue reading. Once you have studied the remainder of this writing, you may be inclined to re-read, but much more importantly, repent and truly hunger for true personal and corporate revival!

Betrayal by the Judas Iscariot Company - Brother Against Brother

Many times, not only is the Enemy successful in orchestrating the downfall of God’s people and luring them into such deception, sin and rebellion that God must eventually forsake them, He later abducts them and forges them into an unwitting but formidable force against those who truly continue to pursue the Lord and His purposes. [consider: Mt. 10: Jn. 15:25-16:3]

Earthly amalgamated Christianity has fallen prey to the enemy’s manipulations as an instrument against true, heavenly Christianity, much the same way that Judas Iscariot betrayed the Lord Himself for misguided political and/or personal interests. Judaism, whose Pharisaism was forged in Babylon (where the Babylonian Talmud was written), was used against Christ and the early Church, and paganized Christianity’s worldwide clout effectively hampered God’s design for well over a millennium except in isolated pockets.

Some Earmarks of Today's Apostasy - a Famine of the Hearing of the Full and True Quickening Word of God.

THE AGE OF APOSTASY - Contemporary Christianity constitutes the last day's apostate church which Paul prophesied would, and has, come into being. It comprises the church of Laodicea which, if unrepentant, will be spewed out of the Lord's mouth. This is the era prophesied by Paul, a time when they will not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers having itching ears (2 Tim. 4:3).

RECIPROCITY - Both the flocks harbouring their lusts, and their ministries who indulge them, are to blame. Spiritually prodigal "Christians" and apostate ministries reciprocally gravitate to each other and reinforce each other's delusions. [Consider ... II Tim. 4:3] "Birds of a feather flock together."

ITCHING EARS & A FORM OF GODLINESS - The convincing deceptions, to which the Lord gives them over, overtake whatever relationship and fellowship they still might have with Him, until they succumb to the ruling desires and inclinations of their own evil hearts.

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God: having a form of Godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." (1 Tim. 3:1-5)

THE TRUE FRAME OF REFERENCE - The only things that can offer effectual protection from persuasive spiritual deceptions are deep, God-given revelation-insight freely offered only to persistent inquirers by the Holy Spirit's cleansing, sanctification, baptism, filling, sealing and adoption (i.e.. the Hebrew definition of sonship), and these solely by the shed blood of Jesus Christ, not by religious rite or ritual. [consider... Rom 5:9 / Eph 1:7 / Col 1:20 / Heb 9:14 / 1 John 1:7 / Rev 1:5]

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THE APOSTATE GOSPEL - THE PREACHING OF A PARAPHRASED VERSION - The focus and emphasis of contemporary and progressive Christianity (evangelical, Pentecostal and charismatic included) are considerably divergent from that which Christ came to preach and establish. "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed." (Gal 1:6-9)

TRUE CREDENTIALS - Christ and His apostles preached repentance, faith, obedience, holiness and love as necessary qualifications for, and evidence of, the possession of eternal Life.

FALSE CREDENTIALS - A FORM OF GODLINESS AND SURPRISE ENDING - However, by their practice, modern Christianity's ministry and membership demonstrate their misplaced confidence in four basic elements as those they say are "necessary" for the possession of eternal life; bringing false hope to their ranks and deceiving multitudes.

Those four basic elements are:

1. Having made a "decision" for Christ, inviting Him into one's heart, responding to a salvation altar call, saying "the sinner's prayer" and/or making a "profession of faith" (as if saying certain "magic" words are sufficient).
2. "Believing" (giving mental assent to) the basic orthodox/evangelical Christian doctrines.
3. Conforming to an acceptable standard of outward behaviour, free from unseemly demeanour.
4. Attending certain church meetings and activities with some regularity.

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Of course, these four basic elements do not conform to the above-mentioned New Testament standards established by Jesus and His apostles. The Inner life and heart condition of today's Christians are ignored altogether BY THE SANCTUARY LOAD (burden).

The misrepresentation of the true Gospel's requirements and promises by these four basic elements is treacherous indeed! Claiming that certain lanes of the "wide-gate" and the "broad-way" are in fact the "strait way" people are to look for, thereby consigning their unwary travellers, by these heavy "sanctuary loads", to a surprise destination – HELL!!!... when they finally plummet off the cliff at the end of life's road.

DOING WHAT IS RIGHT IN THEIR OWN EYES - The apostate churches heed various combinations of the four following trendsetters in directing their congregations: Traditions (old and new), celebrity ministries (who merely entertain), "Every wind of doctrine" (into itching ears of spiritual babes), today's elders and the Sanhedrin (man's priests, bishops, pastors, boards, committees, consultants, councils and counsels). Almost no church anywhere corporately seeks to hear and obey "what the Spirit is saying to the churches." The congregations only hear what the pulpiteers say to the churches, and thereby have shut up the true Pastor (Shepherd) from even "getting a word in edgewise". And even if they were to get a true prophetic direction, there is little to no congregation-level follow-through. To hear is not enough. They each end up doing what they think is best, often through democratic vote.

MAJORING ON MINORS - The ministers preach and promote to the public what is important to them. Christ's power to heal the body, fix bad circumstances, bless finances, enable for success, heal emotional wounds, answer prayer, give joy and peace, baptize with tongues, and even to forgive (pardon) sins are all promoted intensely, as those are the blessings the public is in the market for. However, lacking the means of applying His power to break sin's chains, the counterfeit priestcraft is utterly impotent to deliver people from... addictions, inner obsessions and compulsions, intemperance, gluttony, substance abuse, lusts, perversions, fornication, homosexuality, contentions, drunkenness, resentments, hate, greed, materialism, criticism, complaining, murmuring, impatience, foolishness, anger, worldliness, marital estrangement, irreconcilable differences, envy, covetousness, jealousy, pride, vanity, dishonesty, lying, deception, hypocrisy, religiosity, idolatry, occultism, rebellion, ungratefulness, selfishness, degradation of heart, demonic possession... etc.. etc., (all listed in scripture as the fruit of the flesh).

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DECEIVED AND SEDUCED BY THEIR OWN DESIRES (LUSTS) - The public flocks to the apostate ministers in droves to hear echoed the fleshly values and aspirations of their own selfish hearts. They seek “spiritual” help from them to attain their self-centred goals, while appeasing their own conscience.

RELIGIOUSLY INCORRECT - It is now improper to call sin by its proper names. The Religious incorrectness of addressing the negative issues and traits in the spiritual life of the church, the ministers and the members, for fear of offending the parties, damaging their self-esteem or of being disparaged by these misguided “affirmations”, has neutralized the Gospel’s power. The hue and cry of a “lack of love” is raised against it everywhere!! The true Full Gospel is personally meaningless and powerless in the lives where there has been no prior conviction of Sin. There can be no conviction of sin without the accusatory proclamation of the moral law’s immutable standards and the damnation their violation incurs. Good News is not good news unless one has been overwhelmed with the bad, which the good has come to remedy (such as a terrifying diagnosis of cancer immediately followed up by the news of a newly-discovered effective cure). It would merely be one more shallow news item to assimilate. Christ’s New Law is even more stringent than the Mosaic Law. Its habitual violators (Christian and non-Christians alike will be eternally damned. [Consider ... Mt. 5:17-48 and Heb 2:1-4]. It is the Law, aided by the Spirit’s conviction of sin, which has been appointed to be “The schoolmaster to bring us to Christ - the ONLY One who can, and has, delivered us from the power of sin and death”. [see... Gal 3:24 and Rom 8:2]

FATAL MISTAKES - The failure to address the sin issue properly results in the grieving of the Spirit of Life and permits spiritual death’s cold breath to disable the hearts of most.

A TOUGH PILL TO SWALLOW - Also, neglected has been Christ’s full provision for victory over sin and sinfulness by means of denying oneself, embracing the way of the cross, being a true disciple of Christ, having one’s carnal, sinful nature replaced with Christ’s nature by the Spirit’s sanctification, infilling, along with an active and growing faith.

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FALSIFYING THE GOSPEL - Any Christian doctrine which licenses the adamic carnal nature in the life of a Christian and provides for alternative remedies for its ills is a false gospel. The true Gospel message as taught by Paul and confirmed to him by Peter, James and John includes a thorough dealing with sin and its source in one's carnal/ adamic nature and ... The regrettable consequences of consenting to their ongoing presence and work in the heart. In addition to Paul's writings, the epistles of Peter, James, John, Jude and the letter to the Hebrews; each address the fleshly/carnality issue from their unique perspective attesting to the same. In God's eyes the corollary may be valid as well, namely that, make no mistake; the minister which proclaims the Gospel falsely is a false minister.

THE APOSTATE BELIEF SYSTEM - Based on Paul's declaration that "the letter killeth" modern Christianity's Bible-based beliefs, teaching, doctrines, creeds and giftings are but the skeletal remains of the pulsating realities of "The Spirit giveth LIFE" once enjoyed by the infant Ekklesia.

CHERISHED HEIRLOOMS - RELICS FROM THE PAST - The Church today has been left with the mere doctrinal descriptions of what the first believers once experienced. It has the words, but not the reality, or even a revelatory understanding of what Paul's Spirit-inspired letters were meant to convey.

BIBLE HOMONYMS - The original meaning of many key scriptural terms and words has mutated from their intended initial usage, morphing into dead-letter teachings and even false doctrines, giving place to lying spirits preaching doctrines of demons.

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TIDBITS - "But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept: line upon line: here a little and there a little: that they might fall backward and be broken and snared and taken" (Isa. 28:13) Employing a vast variety of divers and sundry minimal dosage biblical truthisms, the modern, progressive church has proven herself to be effective in bringing her adherents into no more than a trivial, inconsistent possession of those realities portrayed doctrinally. Witness the "fruit" of the (spiritually) pre-school-level sermonettes and Sunday school "lessons" disseminated month after month, year after year and decade after decade in churches everywhere. Today's preaching is nearly as powerless as the ministry of the law, the "type and shadows", the prophecies and the visions of the O.T., which provided only verbal and symbolic depictions of vibrant spiritual realities, completely void of the real power to furnish their hearers with the means to access them or to partake of and enjoy them.

IMAGINARY CHRISTIANITY - Mere words (even seemingly anointed words at times) and not the realities they were meant to portray, are the essence of today's Christianity. The knowledge of the doctrine has been mistaken for possession of its reality and experience. Likewise, the mental endorsement of doctrines has replaced true living faith in the Word they speak.

SUBSTITUTION NOT ACCEPTED - The Lord indicted His own people in Jeremiah's day for the same substitutionary practices that prevail today. [consider ... Jer. 7:22-26 and 2:13] (woe to you who walk in the counsel of your own heart).

APOSTATE INFIDELITY - Harlotry with the golden calf of their IMAGINED GOD.

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HISTORIANS NOT EYEWITNESSES - Almost none in ministry today have had a true revelation of Jesus Christ. They have not had an up-close encounter with Him, much less known Him face-to-face. Accepting His forgiveness, hearing His call, receiving His commissioning, and having insights into the scriptures are not to be confused with a deep revelation of His Person and heart, which is nothing short of full transformation into His full image and likeness (redemption, salvation, sanctification AND glorification). Consequently, today's ministers are impotent to be channels through whom He can be revealed to those in their charge. The people's "faith" is founded more on their leaders' doctrinal prowess, eloquence of teaching and preaching, and/or charisma, than on the "demonstration of the Spirit and of power". [Consider... 1 Cor. 2:1-5]

WORD GAME - They have substituted the theological and intuitive definitions of their reprobate human mind and authorities, for true experiential knowledge and revelation of the Godhead.

MORE HOMONYMS - A SHAKY FOUNDATION - The terminologies to "receive Christ" and to "know Christ" are used inappropriately as homonyms for one's initial (though largely ineffectual) invocation of Christ into his heart and for his ongoing commitment to the Christian persuasion, via a fancied devotion to its head, his doctrines, his behavioural requirements and regular attendance at church meetings. Very, very few have truly received Christ or really know Jesus Christ in the true and full sense of the terms as used in the Scriptures, because they have not yet thoroughly dealt with sin (true and full turning from sin - ie. full repentance). They do not properly appropriate the death of their old man, in Christ, after which they would be empowered to truly "abide in Him" [see... Rom 8:5-13 and 2 Cor. 5:17]

NO FRUIT - To their eternal detriment, knowing the Father and the Son with the evidence expressed in John's First Epistle is not the experience of most of today's Christians claiming to "know" Christ. Very few bear the fruit of the Spirit, the true evidence of one who truly possesses eternal life!! To their imaginary god they project their prayers, knowing no real commandments that would hold them in its grip for hours at a time; they have deluded themselves into thinking that they really know Him.

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ANGELS OF LIGHT - The Father, the Christ and the Holy Spirit that many think they serve today are not the members of the Godhead they imagine them to be, but master impostors. They serve an invisible, abstract golden calf that is a "father", a "saviour" and a "spirit" fashioned in their own likeness, to whom they ascribe the names of the Godhead. Theirs are not idols of statues or icons; it is an idolatry of mental images and concepts, to which they ascribe the names of Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit. Much like a painting (or icon) or a statue serves as a representation of the idolater's object of worship, their personal conception of God has replaced God Himself. This is the true definition of "anti-Christ".

GRAVEN IMAGES - In direct violation of the first and second commandments, representative images of the Godhead of various types are prominently displayed most everywhere in Christendom. The dove, depicting the Holy Spirit almost universally, is actually a pre-Christian symbol of the pagan version of the Holy Spirit. It also represents a pre-Catholic incarnation of the Madonna (later, Mary, Guadalupe and others). Also, images of the lamb, the lion, the fish, a tongue of fire (and more recently the horse of Revelation) as well as others are found throughout Christendom. Coincidentally, these are also part of the religion derived from Nimrod's tower. Christendom justifies this violation of His first two commandments, and other practices, with the argument that the enemy counterfeits that which is God's. The same symbols were employed by Christians of the first centuries, and everybody, except "fanatics", still avidly accept and use them today.

THE APOSTATE WORSHIP-SOUNDING BRASS AND TINKLING CYMBALS - Today's worship is well-orchestrated, but empty and devoid of true anointing.

FLESH'S WORSHIP - Today's God's people worship the "worship experience", not the Lord Himself. Volumes could be written on the explosion of the Christian music industry with its own awards ceremonies, pageantry, crowd control, male pole dances and scandal. This is the epitome of being conformed to the world, in the name of "winning" the world, but it has done the opposite.

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HUMAN ORCHESTRATION - "Whipped Up" praise and worship... with the song leader's adept motivation techniques, and the musicians rehearsed, orchestrated, crescendos sometimes bring an air of excitement to the proceedings, assumed to be the Holy Spirit's presence (finally) descending. Regardless of how long the Holy Spirit might have been present, "blessing" the "worshippers" at the prescribed time, He is summarily cut off, that the proceedings may continue as scheduled.

EXCELLENCE IN SIMULATION - "FILLING IN FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT" A full, intense, true, anointing of the Lord is absent from nearly all "worship", both in meetings and on recordings. Substituting for the Holy Spirit is human Excellence in, gifted song service leaders, talented vocalists, master musicians, Inspired biblical lyrics and last but not the least superb sound and recording systems. So proficient is the Excellence that most people do not seem to mind (or notice) the Holy Spirit's absence.

HYPOCRISY - Though each participant frequently feels his expression of worship to be empty, he exerts himself with simulated joy and fulfillment, thinking that he is the only one that is having difficulty, when in fact, nearly the entire congregation feels the same emptiness.

TRUE AND FALSE WORSHIP - True worship is love's spontaneous response to the revealed Lord of the universe! True worship requires a revelation of the Lord, of His holiness, of His worthiness, of His majesty and of His love, out of a humble heart that bows low at the revelation, recognition, acknowledgment, glory and splendour of His divine attributes. Without the above, it is false worship. It is merely a hollow exercise of "honouring Him with their lips, but their heart is far from Him." That worship is false because they are singing about, and saying things, that have no bearing on the realities held in their hearts, or that are exhibited in the lives of the "worshippers". They often stand in the congregation employing "vain repetitions," ascribing to the Lord holiness or worthiness, without even having the foggiest notion of the depth and breadth of His eternal, exquisite and utterly divine attributes. Therefore, these shallow, hypocritical, outward pronouncements of praise and worship merely demonstrate one's inward, self-centred affection for Him, while their own lifestyle, values and choices only exhibit a love for oneself. [compare... Isa 29:13 / Amos 5:21-27 / Hosea 6:6 / Micah 6:6-8 and Mark 7:6-7 with... Exod 33:18-23 / Ezek 1:4-28, Isa 6:1-5 / Psa 51:17 / Matt 22:37-40 / John 4:24]

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THE APOSTATE WITNESS - The ministry of the "anointed word" and/or the "flowing gifts", and even "signs, wonders and miracles", do not imply God's approval, either of the instrument He may use, or of the recipients of the ministry. These gifts and ministries are not tokens of His mercy and power, nor are they testimony to His name, or to His loving heart of grace that either the apostate ministers purport to be, or the gullible sheep assume them to be. Many misconstrue these tokens to be a sure sign of His approval and favour as they would a liberal cash flow. Consider that during the 40-year sojourn of the rebellious Israelites in the dessert God's blessings, supernatural provision and miracles were showered upon them, even though He loathed them, mingling His divine blessings and provision with severe judgements and a "thinning of the ranks". When they grew tired of manna they cried out for meat in the desert, God poured quail from the sky. After gorging on the meat, while it was still in their mouths, God's anger burned against them and He sent a plague among them (Num 11:31-34). Also Israel's cry for an earthly king was heard by God and king Saul was given to them, but at a huge cost!

THE APOSTATE ANOINTING ON GOD'S WORD - Not uncommonly, bearing faithful witness to Himself, God provides anointing and inspiration for the preaching of His word in pulpits everywhere (and in some places He blesses with certain "supernatural" giftings). However, the Word is perennially infantile in its spiritual content, given piecemeal, precept upon precept, line upon line: here a little and there a little. Neither in the hearts of the hearers, nor many times in the hearts of the speakers, is it accompanied by the work of the "Spirit of Wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Christ Jesus, to illuminate their understanding. Also, His Conviction of Sin, and the Fear of the Lord, which is the Word's proper effect on the hearer's, has largely become not unlike the hearing of the O.T. Law... it imparts some knowledge of God's divine standard and promise of truth and reality, while neither removing "the veil" placed over their understanding, nor providing the enablement to attain them.

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BURIED TREASURES - The Lord generally keeps certain ingredients, necessary for the full appropriation of His provision IN Christ, hidden from those that would intentionally or unintentionally make the New Treatment experience, treasures, mysteries and promises unattainable. However, they are most certainly there, in His Word, for those who have a fervent, seeking heart. [Consider ... Mt. 13:11-15] They remain undisclosed because of the permissive attitude among His people towards sin and sinfulness and their corresponding lukewarmness. The missing ingredients are: An understanding of the full provisions of Christ's Gospel and grace that bring the Spirit's true fullness, power and enablement into one's life and into the Ekklesia at large. The capability to exercise a focused, applied faith has been displaced by a shallow mental assent and a "belief" in a partial gospel that can only produce a powerless "form of godliness". Beyond that, multiplied preaching, teaching, seminars and conventions, by which God's people are ever learning without ever coming to the freeing knowledge of the Truth, will never remedy the deficiencies brought on by the lack of the missing precious hidden ingredients only found in The Word as disclosed by The Spirit of Truth, to those who have forsaken mere intellectual knowledge (gnosis), to come into a full knowledge (epignosis) of Jesus Christ. [consider... Prov 9:10 / John 17:3 / Phil 3:8 / 1 Cor 13:2 / Col 2:2-3]

GOD'S TRUE SERVANTS AMONG THE APOSTATE - Fortunately, the Lord does not leave the apostates without a message. As He sent His true prophets as a witness to each generation of apostate Israel, so today He sends forth His true preachers of TRUE righteousness. However, the instrumentalities used to proclaim the missing ingredients to wayward Christians frequently come wrapped in an offensive packaging, often obscuring the very message they proclaim from those of a reprobate mind. These include the self-righteous, the willful, the proud, the insincere and all those who are content to remain in their carnality. Those content with a religious Christian placebo; a reprobate church, will not receive the message of the former because of certain offensive peculiarities present in their ministries. Those with a heart after righteousness, and after God Himself, are given the capability of spiritual perception to see through the offensive packaging and discern the heart of the true message and of the true messenger. (Consider: Mt. 13:11-12.16)

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BABYLON IS THE APOSTATE CHURCH- A KINGDOM DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF - Because of being outside of Christ (not being experientially IN Christ), the tower of Babel's curse reaches even into, and plagues the hearts and minds of those still bound by organized religion in the thing called "church". God commands us to come out of her and be free of all that plagues her! [Rev 18:4]

THE PRODIGAL CHURCH - FROM THE BANQUET TO THE TROUGH - Leaving the Lord and striking out on her own, the church has squandered her inheritance and has misplaced her affection, away from her Beloved, to place it squarely upon the world and all its values. [see... Rev 2:4]

MISPLACED CONFIDENCE IN WORLDLY RICHES - The abundant skills and talents, the "ministry" of its demonic, divisive doctrine, its material resources, along with its real estate holdings, have all served to blind the church to the true riches. Testimonies of widespread conversions, financial blessings, healings, visions, supernatural signs and wonders, ad infinitum, only serve to reinforce the facade of an abundant life among the many that gather in the candlestick-less assemblies. Her ministers jet set between strategic destinations and enjoy the lavish luxuries of five-star resorts as they "minister" to star-struck, naive sheep, but have no eternal weight of glory, occasioned by light momentary afflictions of tribulations, persecutions, imprisonments, etc. [see... Rev 3:17-18]

A NAME THAT THOU LIVEST AND ART DEAD - The church's false appearance of life, ministry and fruitfulness offers "something for everyone", but is of minimal spiritual consequence in their daily lives. They cater to the people's emotional, mental and religious needs, but with little or no spiritual impact. Unfortunately, the unsuspecting victims of this grievous spiritual dearth are the churches' youth groups. They work hard at providing many attractive activities to aid their "growth" and to protect them from worldly alternatives, but with little genuine or authentic fruit. Most of their young people are only slightly less worldly than the North American unchurched pagan youth, and only a few continue in the church as married adults, the majority being absorbed back into the world.

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BABYLON'S USE OF CONCRETE AND STEEL - The larger her followers, the more successful and self-satisfied today's churches feel, mistaking volume and numbers for substance and character, and their organized programs fall woefully short of the New Testament understanding of one-anothering. The adherents are lost in a wave of an emotional "glory cloud", but when the music stops and the lights fade, the emptiness quickly returns. Repentance and holiness are replaced with cheap simulations, and the churches have become a place of spiritual death, not life. Concrete and steel are veritable millstones around the necks of her false ministers, a veritable weight that sends them plummeting on a collision course with the sea's bottom, along with their works of wood, hay, and stubble!

THE WHITEWASH BRIGADE - In most churches, care is given primarily to merely improve the outward appearance of the members while within lurks some of the most putrid forms of rottenness and dead men's bones. Ignoring and/or covering up the loathsome sight, the ministry applies general amounts of whitewash. Sunday morning platform performance, aggressive evangelism and good works. [consider... Matt. 23 / Matt.7:21-23]

ECCLESIASTIC DELINQUENCY - PRODIGAL AND ADULTEROUS - Much like children without the discipline of firm standards and the properly applied rod from wise, caring and discerning parents... become willful, rebellious and delinquent..., the local assembly can quickly become a spiritually delinquent, prodigal people. Without a strong faith, holding fast to the Truth and sound doctrine, maintaining a holy standard of conduct, a commitment to individual and corporate prayer, listening to wise counsel, maintaining church discipline, mutual surrender, along with an unwavering love for God and one-another, a local church body will quickly devolve into another sect, given over to her own lust for control and significance. Having willfully strayed from the Lord's narrow way, to strike out on her own, she will wantonly dissipate her spiritual inheritance and end up subsisting on a poison diet of carnal, man-made teachings, doctrines of demons, lifeless form and ritual, as well as merciless and divisive legalism. [prayerfully consider Paul's warnings and admonishments in 1st & 2nd Timothy and Thessalonians, James 4, Jude as well as John's letters to the 7 churches in Revelation 2 and 3]

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GOD'S RESPONSE TO THE APOSTATE CHURCH – DIVORCE, ABANDONMENT AND BANISHMENT TO CAPTIVITY - Spiritual infidelity leads to an estrangement of heart from the Lord. His Word-based communion with Him in intimate prayer and His abiding presence, once held by the church in highest esteem and affection, are compromised with other lovers that have pulled sway on her heart, causing her to fall away. [see... Luke 16:13-15 / Col. 3:5-10 / James 4:1-6]

TESTIMONY FROM THE PAST O.T. & N. T. - Scriptures and history demonstrate that the Lord eventually abandons those who persist in abandoning His full Word and turns them over to increasingly severe judgments. [see... Neh.9:26-31 / Judges 2:11-23 / Ezra 8:22]

WITH NO RESPECT OF PERSONS - Neither lineage, heritage, or even a history blessed by God, spiritually or naturally, assures God's ongoing favour, blessing or election. [consider... John. 8:33-47 / 1 Cor. 9:23-27]

HIS COVENANT PEOPLE NOT EXCLUDED - He not only allowed Judaism to die for not living in the way He had established, but fully rejected Abraham's descendants, as His people, and repudiated His covenant with them. [see... Deut. 29:18-29 / Hos. 2:1 / Ezra 5:12 / Jer.3:8 Isa.50:1 / Romans 9:6-8]

EVEN FROM HIS HABITATION PEOPLE - He withdrew his grace and blessing from infant Christianity as the early church abandoned the Gospel fundamentals and evolved into Catholicism, giving it over to the forces of Babylonian darkness. He threatened to withdraw His Holy Spirit from the Ephesian church, just for allowing her love for Him to cool down [see... Rev.2:4-5]. He threatened to come against the Sardis church like a thief in the night unless she repented of her deadness [see... Rev. 3:1-3]. He found himself locked outside of the Laodicean church and would not come inside unless they truly heard Him and obeyed in the matters that would lead them back into intimacy with Him. Otherwise, He would spew them out of His mouth [see... Rev. 3:16-17,20]. Paul warned and pronounced "...if any man loves not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema [See... 1 Cor.16:22].

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"ICABOD" - CHURCH STATUS REVOKED & DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS SEVERED - Upon forsaking his people, Ichabod occurs. The presence of His active leadership and participation is withdrawn from His church. Without the Holy Spirit's active leadership and participation, in Christ's eye, the church ceases to be His true church, and lapses into being merely a religious fraternity; a church of the people, not the church of Jesus Christ. With the withdrawal of the candlestick, that local body forfeits heaven's recognition of it as the Ekklesia. [consider... II Peter 2:4-10, Jude 5, as well as God's dealings with His church in Exodus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Judges and Jeremiah].

HOUSE "ICHABOD" - YESTERDAY & TODAY. Modern, progressive Christianity is nothing but a vast array of apostate ministries coping with the absence of His glory- merely "making do" with what's at hand- unskilled labourers doing it their way. The departure of the Lord's Glory and of His participating presence ("Ichabod") does not occur merely because they don't invite Him into their gatherings, as most of them likely still endeavour to do (in their opening prayer at least), but because of their ignorance of, and even outright provocations against the Lord and His holy standard. Even with a breadth of experience and success, management skills, doctrinal expertise, giftings, charisma, social dexterity, friends in high places, popularity ratings, financial support and commissioning visions; "big" leaders of leaders offer their services to this fragmented and spiritually lifeless Church, void of the glory of God- ICHOBOD! The saddest, most grievous part is that they are ignorant of their condition and really couldn't care less!

INEVITABLE COLLAPSE - Once implemented, Ichabod generally remains undetected until the consequent destruction occurs. The major ongoing crises, for those of the abandoned infrastructure, created because of the Lord's absence, generally do not divulge their cause to the unwary leadership.

SERIOUS ERRORS IN JUDGEMENT - AS in ancient times, when Israel and their leaders misplaced their confidence solely in that which housed His presence (ie. the Ark of the Covenant of Eli's day and the Temple of Jeremiah's day, etc.), rather than in their faithful obedience to the very covenant, and the worship of Him alone, which were God's requirements for presence to remain with them [see... Duet 31:16-18, and 32:16-20], SO also today, Christians unwittingly put their trust in a dead institutional incarnation of what perhaps began as a true "Move of God", as well as in the form, rituals, ceremonies, activities and doctrines, rather than in the "secrets" that led up to the move of God "coming down" [consider... 1 Sam 4 and Jer. 7].

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MANAGING TO GET BY WITHOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT BY COMPENSATING FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT'S ABSENCE - The Apostate ministries attempt to continue as before, but now, having to buttress using fleshly means, that which had been previously self-sustaining. They do not even stop long enough to discern the withdrawal of God's glory and presence, much less to inquire as to the cause of His departed blessing or how to recover it. They substitute significant human effort, resources, management skills, promotional and marketing techniques and other mechanisms to bolster what the Lord used to do without any effort on their part. What grieves the Holy Spirit the most is that they are oblivious to this fact, and they seem to think they are getting along quite well enough without Him. The Religiosity which is required to employ just to maintain even a pretense of vitality is as much of an abomination to God as that which occasioned His absence.

[consider ... Isa. 1:10-15]

UNSKILLED LABOR DOMINATE THE MARKET- GOLD & GEM "SMITHING" IS OBSOLETE - One of Ichabod's effects is that Christ's master artisans, His competent ministries of the full gospel by The Spirit, those anointed and skilled in working with the "gold, silver and precious stones", seem to be near extinction. They have been replaced by unskilled laborers- untrained and inexperienced in heaven's craft!

THE MASON'S GUILD TO THE RESCUE!!! – TODAY'S INCARNATION OF FALSE APOSTLES - Denominational powers produce nothing but empire-builders, congregation-collectors, charismatic-cardinals, wannabe-bishops, convention-king-makers, movement-manipulators and those commissioned and recognized to be "apostles", but not by the Lord Jesus Christ! They have placed themselves as leaders in front of the meandering parades of Christendom, creating and propagating a ridiculous charade!

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NO APOSTOLIC CREDENTIALS - They are without a revelation of Jesus Christ by which they could make Him known to the converted, aid in their being fashioned into His image and truthfully say, "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ". – Have placed themselves as leaders in front of the meandering parades of Christendom. 1 Cor. 9:1, Gal. 1: 15-16. They are inept in holiness, love, Abrahamic faith, spiritual wisdom, power (other than the miracle variety) and true authority over the enemy's strongholds. They are unable to bring the Church into heaven's graces. They are ineffectual in moulding the churches, or even some of their membership, into Christ's likeness (which is what ministry is all about). (Perhaps the primary requirement for early church apostleship was that of having had a revelation of Jesus, from which the early apostles derived their power, authority, understanding and their apostolic grace.)

THE GREED-BREED & THEIR GREED-CREED- BABYLON'S ECONOMICS AT WORK. Ministering for profit, the Bala Amite Hirelings adulterate the Word, prostitute their gifting and market their ministry to gain the following and support of their Consumer- Disciples.

MINISTRY- FOR- REMUNERATION - Employing one's expertise in the Lord's work, his gifting and talents, etc. with a view to being financially compensated, is practiced by countless ministers of the Word. Salaries, honorariums, offering commissions or percentages, "road money", outright fees, royalties, travel expenses, as well as hotel accommodations and meals, play a determining role in many ministries' verbal and contractual speaking engagement agreements. They are absolutely compromised and operate under serious conflict of interest when it comes to the care and concern for God's sheepfold, but beyond that, we are forced to question: "By what spirit are they operating when the Holy Spirit is no longer blessing nor empowering their mega ministries? [consider... Jer. 24:1-4, Ezek. 34:1-10, John 10:11-13, 2Pet. 2:1-3]

LOOKING OUT FOR "NUMBER ONE" - Many ministers subscribe to the greed-creed, for "justifiable" reasons obviously! For example, to receive what they are entitled to, to avoid unfairness and corrupt money management, which results in many places when financial remunerations are not agreed upon with the hosting churches, to "make a living", to broaden my financial base for increased ministry, or to simply keep up with other ministries out of a spirit of sheer competition. They'll say: "Hey, every big ministry is doing it, don't you know?!... You have to if you're running a successful ministry!"

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WOLF PACKS - Some ministers are brazen con artists, gaining a following, power base, and the financial resources necessary to enjoy a fulfilling career in Christianity. Wolves from within and from without teach, preach, and prophecy whatever the market will bear, to produce their objectives. They roam freely unchecked and do much damage! The pulpit promotes shearing of the sheep. Their project-plugged performances are scheduled throughout the churches, riddled with self-promotion and fundraising. How often have you seen this yourselves? [see... Matt. 7:15-20, Acts 20:29, 2Pet. 2:1-3 and 3:15-17].

GETTING THE WORD OUT FOR A CUT OF THE TAKE - GIVES NEW MEANING TO "FLEECING THE SHEEP" - Many of these false ministries unapologetically merchandise Christ's free gospel, and they even compete in the arena of the gospel's merchandising. "Love gifts" in exchange for free junk. State-of-the-art marketing and fund-raising techniques to generate the greatest returns. Appealing to vast audiences, positioning their image as middle-of-the-road as possible, within their target market. This includes special Balaam edition Bibles, watered-down devotionals and scripture portions. Multiplied versions and editions of the holy bible pumped out by profiteering publishers. Christian books, magazines, television networks and programs, concerts, holy land and Asia Minor tours, cruises, videos, CD's and cassettes. Can it sell? How profitable will it be? These determine the techniques to maximize the methods, but worse than all that, they become willing to actually withhold ministry if the royalties, commissions or profits are simply not there.

FROM DEN OF THIEVES TO GOSPEL CARTEL - The original incarnation of the temple merchants in Christ's day has now grown to a vast cartel serving multifaceted markets and turning healthy profits by marketing derivatives of Christ's free gift. They ignore His divine guideline and love-motive: "freely have you received - freely give".

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FLEECE DEALERS- FALSE PASTORS ARE BEHOLDEN TO THEIR FLOCKS FOR THEIR WOOL - Rather than the fear of the LORD and total trust in Him, it's their covetousness, their economic insecurities and their fear of man, along with a well-developed sense of self-preservation that are at the heart of these false prophets, shepherds and ministries. They must cater to their fickle flocks so they don't alienate them, discourage their wool output, or be deposed by them. Lest they lose adherents, their message cannot be too concentrated with the pure pasture grass of the word. Many of the flock prefer hallucinatory weed(s) over the true pasture grass, and certainly the milk of The Word rather than strong meat, tickling their ears rather than feeding their hungry souls!

NOTHING BUT SOPHISTRY - (sophistry - "unsound or misleading but clever, plausible and subtle argument or reasoning"). Neglecting Christ's warning, the false prophets are heralded and followed by multitudes for their gifting, positive and milquetoast words, and not for their fruit. They plug into the wrong source. They make use of their wit, intuitive faculties, psychic abilities and their spirits of divination to gain a following, leading the multitudes astray from following Christ, failing to equip them to hear from the Holy Spirit for themselves. Many prophets are thoroughly deceived, truly believing their gifting to be of the Holy Spirit, as are their followers [consider... Jer. 23: 16, Ezek. 13, 1 Kin. 22:21-22, Matt. 7:18, 24:24-25, 2 Cor. 11:13-15, 1 Tim. 4:1-2, 2 Thes 2:9-10, 2 Pet. 2:1-3 and Jud 1:1-16].

WITHSTANDING GOD'S TRUE PROPHETIC WORD - Just as Hananiah, "the son of Azur the prophet, which was of Gibeon," spoke in the temple prophetic utterances directly contrary to what God's word was, through Jeremiah, and wrongly assured the priesthood and the people that their captivity in Babylon, like a wooden yoke, would soon be broken off. He also erred in foretelling that those taken captive, along with the sacred vessels, would shortly return from Babylon, causing the people to trust in a lie. Today's Hananiah company speaks soothing words devoid of truth to the people, declaring that they have nothing to worry about regarding God's impending judgment upon them (His own household). They seduce God's people into a passive mindset that they are either currently in revival, or soon will be, and the people believe their lies, rather than repenting of their lukewarmness [see... Jer 28].

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SOOTHING RELIEF FOR ITCHING EARS - Some ministers start out strong with a genuine anointing and supernatural gifting, but succumb to preaching, teaching and prophesying “peace, peace”, when there is no peace, under the inspiration of the spirit of error. Also, “blessing, blessing”, “success, success”, “prosperity, prosperity”... “victory, victory” and even “growth and maturity”. They prophesy out of their own hearts and speak words that God has not spoken. Their message is like untampered mortar, thus ruining the walls and structure of their “building”. Such is the message of the false prophets of today. Their message discourages the righteous, while affirming those bound in carnality’s grasp, promising them life and its “all good! [see... 1 Tim. 4:1-2, 2 Tim. 4:3-4, 2 Thes 2:9-10, 2 Pet. 2:1-3 and Jud 1:1-16]. Be certain that the Lord will bring His fire down to expose their false words and ways!

HAMPERED - Some prophets operate with true giftings of the Holy Ghost, but without opening themselves up to hear the "whole counsel of God" or to give it. A). Christ Jesus, who is the overseeing Spirit of the prophets, is not revealed through them. B). The Spirit that is “subject to the spirit of the prophet” (1 Cor 14:32), the actual source of their anointing, simply will not utter things that are divergent from the personal convictions of the instrument. So therefore the false spirit that they are operating under does not effectively deal with, nor even convict His people of their sins. C). Even when the prophets are outside of the Lord’s will, or do not really know Him, the giftings are still seemingly in operation. D). Even though they are not truly in tune with the heart-purposes of God, their giftings still operate. E). Their ministry produces no spiritual growth into the likeness of Jesus. F). Their disobedience eventually opens them up to deceiving spirits of divination (the demons responsible for false prophecies, visions, etc.) purporting to be the Holy Spirit [Consider... Num. 22:12-22; Josh.13:22].

THE SHOWMEN OF CHRISTIAN BOX OFFICE EXTRAVAGANZAS - False evangelists and artists with packaged, plastic images and giftings assure them of the largest following possible. Adept at all of modern promotional techniques, the best showmen attract the most followers. They are billed as God’s chosen, empowered to give anointed recitation of scripture portions, metaphors and truisms, accompanied by their ama-a-a-z-zing gifts, producing thrilling testimonials, attested to by thousands in each city around the nation. “Come and be blessed (and bring your wallet)!! Their giftings, eloquence, wit and publicity draw the multitudes, but they are entirely devoid of the Spirit’s Conviction of sin.

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SUPERSTAR HAS-BEENS - Their popularity is short-lived and so yesterday's superstar conference speakers become today's faded and broken duds.

UNSKILLED IN SPIRITUAL AGRICULTURE - PREMATURE HARVESTING - The heart of most of those drawn to the evangelistic campaigns has not been prepared for true repentance, for full self-denial, for total obedience, nor for a life filled with the HOLY Spirit. They are only prepared for temporary healings, shallow words and an easy-going "charismatic" experience. Without an adequate preparation-of-heart in the masses ministered to, today's one-man ministries have little fruit to show or offer up to the returning Master of the field. Little more than hay and stubble is quickly consumed by the Consuming Fire!

FALSE EVANGELISTIC MESSAGE - The sin problem is not properly addressed, as a whole, presenting Christ to be believed in for the forgiveness of past and all the benefits of becoming a child of God, but going on to be set free from the power of sin and its devastating consequences are never elaborated upon or encouraged. After all, these new converts might become uncomfortable or offended, and may reject the call. "Just believe, just ask a quick blanket forgiveness of all your sins, just repeat the sinner's prayer after me, and Presto! You become a child of God". By doing so, he really remains a child of hell, only now more greatly deceived because he thinks he is good to go and there is no need to grow into full sonship.

AS IT WAS IN CHRIST'S DAY - It is the evil and adulterous generation that pursues merely the signs, wonders, healings, miracles, multiplied bread and fish, and false revivals. And now Christian celebrities and witty word-benders tapping into a growing Christian market [consider... Mat. 12:39,16:4; Jn. 12:9-18; Jas. 4:2-4].

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TONGUE-TWISTERS - In many of this century's Bible translations, more care is given to make the Scriptures more palatable and understandable to the Christian and non-Christian public, whose level of literacy and comprehension is plummeting in concert with the rest of western society. Poetic license or literacy license is indulged in, making the translations inaccurate and scripturally unreliable. The most accurate manuscripts are not closely adhered to because they have a broader public appeal. God will not honour His people's beliefs coming out of translation inaccuracies, as He is only obligated to the Word that came forth from His own mouth. Nor will He give faith to believe that which He never has said nor meant in the first place, but that somehow found itself within the covers of a book marketed as the "holy" Bible.

SHORT TERM RESULTS - Some are somewhat successful in reversing several of the negative trends in the Church system; however, they are only temporary at best.

PATIENT AND SLOW TO ANGER - God is slow to anger [Exo 34:6]. The curse of Ichabod comes over His people only in the face of ongoing, persistent rebellion, after many calls to repentance and numerous warnings, though usually undiscerned and/or unheeded.

Chapter Three

Remnant Dilemma

USER- FRIENDLY. In using and recommending Bible Translation, indiscriminating ministers consider "user-friendliness" more important than "author-authenticated"... As do indiscriminating believers.

AUTHOR-UNFRIENDLY. Contemporizing the Biblical contents, the O.T. and N.T. prohibitions of adding to or taking from the words of the inspired Holy Writ are disregarded. The consent to such by the indiscriminating ministry and believers endangers them to the same consequences their perpetrators are sentenced to: "some men's sins are open beforehand, going to judgment: and some men they follow. (II Tim. 5:24) Consider... Dt. 4:2, Pr. 30:5-6; Rev. 22:18-19.

Apostate Ministries Doubly Cursed!!- Severe Penalties for Tampering with the Gospels' Standards.

A PAUL'S TWO-FOLD ANATHEMA. "But there be some that trouble you and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, "let him be accursed". As we said before, so say I now again. If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received let him be accursed. Gal. 1:7-9

Hushed Realities- the Evidence of Judgement Are There to Be Seen by Those with a Discerning Eye and a Spiritual Value System.

UNMASKING. Peering behind the veneer of "success and "anointing' hints of the ravages of Paul's twofold anathema can be seen in the ministries (and their churches)

SOWING AND REAPING. God has done the same with the Evangelical Religion of Today's Apostate Christianity as He did with His previous people that became adulterous. He has consigned them to a spiritual captivity under Babylon's deception and tyranny.

To the Captive Christian Nation-Captivity is Not Meant to Be Forever"

CAPTIVITY'S BEGINNINGS. The road toward captivity for God's Chosen People began by their breaking the First and the Second Commandments and making room for other gods (while not yet blatantly rejecting God) ... In their hearts: Then in their homes: Later, on their high places: And finally... In their very Temple. As a result, God could not remain among them. (II Cor. 6:14-18!!)

TWO MASTERS. It is the (attempt of serving two masters that sets in motion the chain of events that eventually leads to the most deceptive and deplorable forms of captivity. Serving God, and whatever or whoever else to Him, is idolatry.

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THE 10 COMMANDMENTS FIRST CURSE. Generational curses that affect even innocent family members and their posterity are set in motion by “having other gods before Him”.

THE Self-Perpetuating Curses. Each generation's curse, active for 3 or 4 successive generations, compounding with that of its descendants, makes a self-perpetuating family curse that reaches down through history and can only be broken by Christ.

BONDAGE TO DEMONIC FORCES. What is a curse, but being given over as a captive to the Enemy and His control?

SERVING THE OTHER MASTER. Israel's punishment was to be given over to the promulgators of idolatry, the descendants of the Babel Tower builders. Consider... Exo. 20:3-5: Lk. 16:13: Rom. 6:16: Col. 3:5

AFTER THE SENTENCE'S EXPIRATION-THEN & NOW. In their call to abandon the land of their captivity, a parallel can be seen between the Israelites who had been consigned to the disciplinary judgment of Babylonian captivity, and the Christian peoples under the reign of Mystery Babylon's Religiosity.

“COME OUT OF HER, MY PEOPLE”- ANCIENT ISRAEL'S CALL TO RESTORATION. After the determined period of Babylonian captivity was completed, the Lord's call to those under their captor's reign was to “come out from among them”. Invited to participate in the reactivation of His purposes after the disciplinary disruption, they were to abandon Babylon, return to Jerusalem, and devastating judgements to be poured out on Babylon. His call to them was not to “convert” her nor to call down God's blessings on her. No promises of reforming, blessing or “reviving” Babylon were given.

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PREFERRING CAPTIVITY. ANCIENT ISRAEL'S RESPONSE TO HER CALL TO RESTORATION. Only a few complied with the call to leave Babylon and return to Jerusalem to rebuild her walls and temple. The vast remainder chose to remain in Babylon. Knowing not the earlier way of life: Indisposed to relinquish their lifelong attainments in Babylon; not desiring to be inconvenienced by leaving behind their hard-earned acquisitions, Business relationships, dear friendships or family. Unwilling to pioneer against overwhelming odds, nor believing the prophecies of the promises. Similarly, virtually all the Israelites born in Egyptian captivity resisted leaving the land of their captivity and repeatedly considered returning. All but 2 died in the desert, without inheriting the promise, having fallen prey to a variety of sins and rebellion. This is repeated generation to generation, and we are in need of a true returning and rebuilding the ruins of our Jerusalem.

MANY ARE CALLED- FEW ARE CHOSEN. As it was with the Israelites born in Babylonian captivity, so it is today... Though many hear the call to "come out," only a few respond. Consider... Jer. 50:8;51:6,45; II Cor. 6:17; Rev. 18:4.

THE PENTECOSTAL MOVEMENT. What occurred prior to the 1920's in reference to the 20th Century Pentecostal Outpouring... That might have generated the sentence extension of an additional 70 years more of captivity that Christianity has been under. (There was a concerted effort on the part of God's Spirit to bring Christianity out of bondage through that "Visitation".) Why are so few hearing today the call to "come out?"

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THE REMNANT-LANGUISHING &NOWHERE TO TURN. Within the Captive Christian Nation is a Remnant that has not fully succumbed to the Babylonian Curse. A survey of the more spiritually inclined, the spiritually minded, and the spiritually hungry of churches everywhere will reveal... Their painful disillusionment and discontentment with their local church to aid them in their spiritual aspirations and ... Their overwhelming sense of hopelessness of ever finding a church somewhere in their area that can do so. The great void felt by this dejected Remnant most clearly confirms that the Holy Spirit is no longer present in today's Church to meet their deeper spiritual longings... Though the others' "needs" are being addressed on levels in which His involvement is not critical. Most of the Remnant sighs at the plight of their ministers and their beloved brothers and sisters and at that of their church. Several of them maintain a strong, vital prayer life interceding for their brethren around them. With some, their sense of loyalty obligates them to remain. Others will heed the call to "come out from among her" and return "home" to help "rebuild the ancient ruins". Consider... Ezek. 9:1,4:6.

GOD'S CHOICEST TARGETED BY MISS BABYLON. Babylonian Christianity can always use a good Man or Woman of God who is totally "sold out".

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RECRUITING FOR CREDIBILITY- THE ENTICEMENT OF THE CHASTE. The presence of true Men and Women of God among the Babylonian Roman ministries and enterprises lends credence to them. "For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life." (Pro. 6:26). Miss Babylon makes persistent efforts to lure and recruit those with spiritual integrity, solid Biblical convictions, true anointing, spiritual wisdom, talent, managerial skills and other qualities for various reasons. She offers them security, recognition and approval, many opportunities, benefits and privileges... Though she never places them as C.E.O's...As they would do "hatchet jobs" on that which she is endeared to. Her attractiveness and her insistence mark some of the greatest dangers to the downfall of the true Man or Woman of God. It happened to Solomon, though he had received 2 visions of the Lord and the wisdom and inspiration to pen Proverbs, Solomon's disobedience to the repeated warnings of avoiding the snares tended by alluring "strange women' turned his heart away from the Lord. Their influence later used him to strengthen Babylon's grip over Israel, and accelerate the downward spiral of God's people, towards the Bottomless Pit. The lust and physical adultery that ministry everywhere falls prey to is but symptomatic of the Spiritual Adultery indulged in. Spiritual and ministerial adultery are perhaps the greatest and most persistent dangers that a true Man or Woman of God must overcome.

SPIRITUAL CHASTITY. To retain their "Nazarite Vow" the Men/Women of God must discern and resist Babylonian Christianity's enticements and not capitulate to her overtures. They must retain their purity of dedication to the Lord and to the vision for His work He once gave them... Without being overwhelmed by the magnitude of the defection to the Seductress's enticement. They must "hold out" for the fulfillment of their heart's vision... Waiting and believing, as Abraham did for its fulfillment... Waiting for God to join them with others of like heart and mind... Consider... 1 Ki.3:3-15; 9:2-9;11:1-11; Pt. 2:12-19; 5: 6:23-35;7:6-27;9:13-18.

A Realistic Assessment- Summing Up.

ILLICIT RELATIONSHIPS. God's people call it... Love, unity, brotherhood, not judging, not rejecting, being open-minded, tolerant, being affirming, sensitive, inoffensive, breaking down barriers, coming together on what they agree on. Using what works: appealing to the masses, getting the Word out: drawing the net in. Endorsement of the Word by the world's celebrities, authorities and sciences. Getting their share of "the wealth of the wicked" to build up the kingdom of the righteous. Omitting the more disagreeable and offensive parts of the message to gain a greater hearing and following. (Reasoning, "they can read and find out for themselves what they were not told. After all, it's there in the Word.") Eating the meat and spitting out the bones: Taking the good and leaving out the bad. (Reasoning, "if it is in the Word, it must be O.K.") Having good fun. Taking some much-needed R&R. Etc., Etc. God calls it... Friendship with the world, Adultery, Whoredoms, Believers being unequally yoked with unbelievers, Righteousness having fellowship with unrighteousness, Law having communion with darkness, Christ having concord with Belial, He that believes having part with an infidel, The temple of God having agreement with idols, His people being among them: not being separate, His people touching the unclean thing. Consider... Jas 4:4 II Cor. 6:14-17: Num. 14:33: Dt. 31:16: Jer. 2, 11 ; Ezek. 16:23; Hos. 1:5.

REHEARSING TO DECEIVE GOD'S VERY ELECT. Satan has effectively undermined God's original designs in each of His "fresh starts" down through history (though God always has the last Word).

LIKE DOMINOES IN SLOW MOTION-HISTORY REPEATED. The descendants of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Joseph, David, and even Pentecost all fell prey to Satan's strategies, eventually compelling God to abandon His chosen peoples. He has successfully tempted, deceived and seduced them with alternative sources of fulfillment, many of them religious in nature.

VANQUISHED AGAIN-WITH THE ANTI-CHRIST AT THE DOOR. And now Protestantism, including its more recent. Evangelical, Pentecostal, and charismatic persuasions have fallen also. – Surely, the Contemporary Church is not the glorious Sun-Clothed Woman, whose glory and strength held the 7 Headed Scarlet Dragon at bay while pregnant with the Manchild!

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A FORMIDABLE OPPONENT. Satan truly has deceived the whole world!! (Rev. 12:9) And almost the whole Church.!!

Drinking Whoredoms' Dregs- Gods' Bill of Divorcement to his Adulterous People.

MAN-MADE & MAN-DEPENDENT. Today's Christianity is mostly a Bible-based, but man-made Religion, significantly dependent on human expertise and effort for its survival and perpetuation. It is without the active supernatural participation of the Head of the True Church, Jesus Christ and is deprived of the energizing dynamic of the Holy Spirit that brings Christ's life and nature to full Body manifestation.

SPIRITUAL MONOGAMY OUTMODED. As many times previously, God's people have not been careful to walk in the strict monogamous faithfulness. They have fallen prey to many expressions of whoredoms, presuming on His mercies and grace. Indeed general Christendom today (Evangelical, Pentecostal, Charismatic included) are spiritually backslidden, apostate and reprobate given over to the spiritual captivity of the enemy's deceiving, oppressing, and destructive hordes. Today's Christianity are seemingly ignorant of their plight and unable to resist their downward plunge. Those entitled to the privileges and benefits of the third heaven standard of living are generally no better spiritually than those in the third world social and economic order. Those in the third world community generally know they are poor, miserable and naked. The Laodiceans do not!

CONFRONTING AND ADMITTING REALITY. Discovering and admitting the reality of having been born into a Babylonian captivity that was not meant to be is most disagreeable indeed. But it is essential if we are to save our souls, receive Him into our midst and partake of the promised land's bounties. Will the vast graveyard of Christendom's dry bones come to life again? Are the principles contained in Ezekiel's prophecy regarding Israel's bone yard applicable to Christianity's tombstone city? If the resurrection is to occur, it will not be to a reconstituted body of mortal religiosity and Christian carnality. As with Israel, who will only be spiritually resurrected when she receives Christ and steps into Christ according to the New Testament gospel. Christendom's rising from the dead can only occur to the degree that she experientially takes her place in Christ.

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Only Elijah's company who stands before the LORD with his zeal in their hearts can call down the Holy Spirit's fire from heaven. Upon presenting Him the sacrifice according to his word, challenging Baal's followers to a life-changing religious decision. Those unsuccessful prophets of Baal can never restore Christianity's original condition or bring the fire down. Among them are submission and covering, 5 fold ministry and manifest sons of God, Christian psychology and healing of the memories, prosperity and health, programs and fund-raising, institutionalization and business principles, worship teams and choreographed dancing, divine order and N.T. church government. Ad infinitum.

CHRIST'S ASIAN PROMISES NOT FOR EVERYBODY. Christ's promises articulated to Asia's seven churches were given only to the overcomers, not to the non-overcomers. Those of the Elijah company calibre included others, among which are the Moses company and the David company. To whom was revealed the heavenly tabernacle/temple, they replicated on the earth among God's people into which his shekinah glory descended. 1 Kings 18; Ex.24;13-25. 1 Chr. 28:19-20 Only a full-blown true awakening can restore His people to their calling and standing in Christ Jesus. However, they must first flee Babylon.

And the LORD Spake unto me saying, Ye have compassed the mountain long enough: turn you northward.
Deut.2:2

When we all started out in our journey, as an ekklesia, we spent at least two years going over how far the Christian church has gone astray from the original God-breathed word. For this reason, I have given an outline of those spiritual qualities that have been forfeited as we have it today. It was needed for you also to see the problem before you can begin to understand what is needed to restore what was lost. Once we see it, now we can start to seek the LORD for him to bring about His will in the earth by taking on His desire and His will to fully reveal HIMSELF in our midst. The seriousness of what has happened cannot be understated. Consider Achan, who took the accursed thing of a Babylonian garment, a wedge of gold and silver. Israel was defeated in the battle of Ai by this one man's theft. Joshua 7:21

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And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire. And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven. Nehemiah 1:3,4

It will take a burden and concern to be part of the company of saints for the solution to the problem to restore both the judgment of God upon these religious organizations and the carnality found everywhere. We are talking about the entire world!

They which build on the wall, and they that bear burdens, with those that laded, everyone with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon. So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work. Nehemiah 4:6,17

Labour not for the meat which perished, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed. John 6:27

The supreme purpose we discuss is not secondary effects of awakening the sleeping saint. But a thorough awakening of the body results in the LORD's presence being realized as he takes up his place amongst his revived living stones. He will do a new thing. He will take away that which is traditional, long established, corrupted, and obsolete from among those who unreservedly seek revival to replace it with something of infinitely greater power and value. He will do something quite different and unexpected from the contemporary perspective as Heb.10:8-9. He taketh away the first that he may establish the second. He will rend the heavens and come down and bring unimaginable blessing. 1 Cor.2:9 Isaiah 64: 4. He will do a new thing. Isaiah 43:19. He will make new wineskins for new wine. Mt.9:16. He will restore his little flock the purity, power, and love of the early church, adding a far-surpassing glory. Hag.2:9 Gal.4:24-31.

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The LORD'S visitation will come to a people who corporately seek to fully align their lives to the Lord's word and will. We must not remain in Laodicean lukewarmness, with its many deceptions, contaminants and abominations. In it he will use a few of the surviving remnant from among those that come out with no restricting attachments to the old order. He will seek out other people or generations whose heart will fully turn to Him.

REBUILDING THE ANCIENT RUINS. There will be great changes that will make the New Church unrecognizable when compared with even the best contemporary Christianity's churches. Those seeking revival in earnest will relinquish even the best of the most cherished of the contemporary carnal earthly expressions of Christianity. Their religious attachments will be repudiated. Phil.3:4-10. They will become so pliable in His hands that any new arrangements or fundamental changes brought by the Lord will be thoughtfully considered and readily obeyed. Only Jesus Christ himself dwelling in the midst of His own can lead His people into them.

INCOMPREHENSIBLE. The Lord's supreme purpose in sending revival is to come himself to dwell among his people in the midst of His own, something we have not yet comprehended. He will rend the heavens. To come down meaning might apply as in Isaiah 64:1-4. A supernatural visitation dislodging the demonic geographic regions of Satan's domain superimposed over the earth's physical heavens. The occult counterparts with their high priests, and priestesses of the deities designed to control and manipulate mankind and his affairs as represented by mystery Babylon of Rev. 17. The deceptions and sins which are caused to prevail among God's people are the means by which Satan establishes His regional corruption, influencing and governing control over a vast sector of today's church. Their dominion offers persistent and effective hindrances to God's kingdom and related angelic activity. Daniel 10

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Heaven's armies will topple the enemy's regional kingdom headquarters and dominance led by Jesus Christ. Christ's victory obtained on the cross will be specifically applied to enforce the given geographic area. Angelic authorities will be bound and/or deposed, and their human counterpart will become powerless. Babylon's rule over those truly seeking Him will be broken to the degree that she and her ways are repudiated by God's people regionally. Her deception will be exposed and her chains of oppression broken. God's angelic garrison will then fill the created vacuum, secure the region and perpetuate His governmental control. Consider the Burnt Over section concerning the move of Christ during the 1820's in upper New York. Men came to conviction of sin without a preaching.

In this way, a beachhead will be established. God's cleansed and unified body will experience the reality of the fullness of Christ as they continue full of faith, praying daily Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

HEAVEN'S INVASION. The king and commander, Jesus Christ himself, will rend the heavens to revive his own and displace the region's demonic forces. His counter-insurgency will break off the enemy's immediate access to his ex-subjects. By his Spirit he will intend to bring them under his own full control and Lordship. It is the sanctifying experience that obtains a robust faith without which undealt aspects of one's carnality reassert themselves. We need a robust faith to continue to walk in the Spirit, without which one will fall prey to the enemies. Being renewed in the spirit of your mind and walking in the Spirit is needed to obtain the end desire: freedom from sin and communion with God. Gal. 5:24 Eph.4:23 3:16-21

To rend the heavens and come to dwell corporately in His people, Old Testament tabernacles and temple were but shadows and a foretaste of his purpose to dwell in and among His people through the provisions of Christ's grace and full gospel.

Ex. 25:8-9 Dt. 12:1,5,11 Num. 35:34 Ex. 40:31-38 Pa. 132:13-14

Walking Amidst The Golden Candlesticks Final

Deliver thyself, O Zion, that dwellest with the daughter of Babylon. For thus saith the Lord of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that touches you touches the apple of his eye. For, behold, I will shake mine hand upon them, and they shall be a spoil to their servants: and ye shall know that the Lord of hosts hath sent me. Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion: for, lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the Lord. zach.2: 7-10

He Will Establish Them in Relationship as his People

And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh: That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God. EZ.11:19,20

He Will Bring Them into the Fullness of His Mystery Christ in Us.

Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: Colossians 1:26-28

Fully born again as new creations

The heart transformation as expressed in biblical terms, not religious trappings. Christ comes to dwell in the inner man as evidenced by the love of God being poured forth into the heart by the Holy Spirit. Romans 5:5. The witness of the Spirit with our spirit that we are a child of God. Romans 8:16. Correspondingly, the cleansing power of the blood of Christ brings a conscience that is purged and purified. Hebrews 9:14. The sealing of the Spirit is His work of redemption to take you unto himself and love you. Ephesians 1:13,14. We have a living and active relationship with God by His Spirit that cries forth Abba Father. Galatians 4:6. We have become New creations in Christ as His workmanship. Ephesians 2:10

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Hindrances to the work of Revival are calibrated to bring back the same earthly condition mentioned. Will we or will we not seek Him till the desired end is accomplished? This is no small task of trusting and calling out to God that His life and glory return.

“For as the girdle cleaves to the loins of a man, so have I caused to cleave unto me the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah, saith the Lord; that they might be unto me for a people, and for a name, and for a praise, and for a glory: but they would not hear. Jeremiah” 13:11

Our Laodicean age is exhorted to buy gold refined in the fire, white raiment and eye salve from the Lord or suffer the dire consequences. As the Revelation churches are called to repent or else, he will remove their candlestick, which is His active presence and power. This is what historically has happened, and this book is directing us to take an account of our lives and return to full submission in humble prayer and faith. Today we have the stupor, slumber, blindness, and deafness removed so that there would be an understanding and truly be converted. This is needed individually and corporately.

Coming clean, His people are called to eliminate and change everything offensive to Him. By a thorough repentance, discontinuing the practice of all sins, large and small. By practising confession of sin in private and if need be in public. God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

REMOVING EVERY EXPRESSION OF UNFORGIVENESS. Resentments, judgmental criticisms of others, prejudice, Gossiping, murmurings and any other barriers sensed. The need to deal a deathblow to the hold of covetousness, avarice, affluence and materialism in one's life. Consecrate in prayer all material belongings and possessions and all financial obligations to the Lord. Relinquish ultimate control of all material and financial aspects of one's life, placing them at His disposal, and becoming a mere steward thereof. Discontinue impulse spending. By dealing with each area and detail of life that occasions uneasiness of the heart of conscience until a full deep peace and joy fill the heart...

PRESENT TO THE LORD A HUMBLE HEART. Give to God a heart well-pleasing. Hos.5:15 A heart that is convicted by the Holy Spirit will truly acknowledge they are guilty and sinful. Luke 18:9-14. From the heart there will be a cry increasingly coming forth. Joel 2:12,13

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Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. Joel 2:13,14

A broken and yearning heart is the genuine work to break up the fallow ground.

For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. Isaiah 57:15

O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary. Ps.63:2

Learn to develop a loving heart to truly love one's neighbor as one loves who looks out for himself. Actively seek others in many ways, large and small. Assuming one's proper place, fulfilling his role in both family and social relations. Laying down one's life for others, pouring it out on their behalf. Bring ministry with a challenging word to others. Preaching the gospel to those who were partners in sin. 1 Cor. 13:1-3 1 Cor.12:31 John 13:24.

Chapter Four

Looking Unto Jesus

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LOOKING UNTO JESUS. But we all with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from the glory of the Lord, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2 Cor.3:18. Properly undertaken, extensive prayer before the presence of God subjects the petitioners to a process that will culminate in their transformation and in their being made a dwelling place for the lord. 2 Cor.3:18. The heart is conditioned and readied to receive what it asks for through the demands and dealing of prayer and of its object. Conviction of sin and the fear of the Lord eventually come upon those in prayer for revival and produce a humble, broken, contrite, and repentant heart. Sin, the principle of hindrance to prayer, will be removed, and answers will come quickly, far exceeding what is asked or thought. A fully repentant heart, and one full of faith, will become the recipient of Grace's full blessings. The promise of the Holy Spirit's full dwelling is eventually given.

IMPORTUNATE TENACITY is necessary; therefore, continue to ask, seek, knock, until the answer is given.
Luke 11:5-13

It is pleasing to the Lord for His children to implore Him in a specific and detailed manner, to release each and all of the manifold blessings of their full inheritance in Christ Jesus, alluded to in seemingly innumerable scriptures and promises. Not limiting themselves to or preferring a few blessings more, early acquired and enjoyed in the temporal circumstances. May those who seek to become his dwelling place do so in a manner consistent with the bounty available to them only for the asking. Taking the time to explicitly and repeatedly requisition each of the blessings and provisions made available to them in Christ, with a heart full of faith and expectancy.

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PRAYING IN THE CONTEXT OF A GROUP FOR HIM TO ESTABLISH HIS DWELLING PLACE. A new Pentecost is needed in each regional setting. Though the Holy Spirit was indeed given to the infant church at Pentecost, History has borne out the need for, and the fact of, fresh outpourings. The theological concept of a once only Pentecostal outpouring, whose full benefits were henceforth and evermore released to the church, only favors the enemy's interests and facilitates the work of the Babylonians/Roman spirit of religiosity. We have enough of simulated Godliness. A drastic restructuring of priorities is warranted by the powerlessness and abiding-lessness of the Lord in their midst. Only a token manifestation of mercy and love is His presence and power with His people today. His abiding fullness is virtually unheard of today. The testimony and admonitions of the scriptures regarding the church of the last days, and the impending judgments soon to be released on the earth, also require a stringent reordering of commitments. Luke 21:34-36

Through the Lord's parting words to His followers comprising a strong call to evangelism, missionary outreach, and edifying the converts, He qualified His commission with an indispensable stipulation. First receive the Holy Spirit in all of His fullness, provision, power and presence. As compelling as the needs of the House of Israel were round about Him, the Lord Jesus Himself did not launch out into His own earthly ministry until actually commissioned to do so by the Father's call and the Holy Spirit's enduement. So, it was with the infant church and her apostles and evangelists. Moses and other prophets were not released into the full orb of their calling until having their own supernatural encounter with God. The limited Pentecostal charismatic tongues experience is not the baptism gift of the Holy Spirit first referred to as a qualifying indispensable stipulation. Acts 1:4-8 Luke 4:1-2

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ETERNITY'S DISAPPOINTMENTS. To endeavour to corroborate in the building of His Church, without fulfilling the above INDISPENSABLE STIPULATION. Is to give years "to the wind". To arrive before Christ's Judgement Seat empty-handed. Consider ... 1 Cor. 3:12-15 Without His rending the heavens and coming down, most Christian efforts and ministry will prove to be spiritually and eternally futile as the years unfold. Immediate, impressive and immense results are readily obtained by many who have disregarded the Indispensable Stipulation. Though substandard and transitory, they are subscribed to in the Carpenter's & Masons' Guild building code. To the detriment of many unsuspecting devotees, even the most magnificent structures of "wood, hay and stubble" will be put to the test of fire and will be burned. The Ishmaels... the product of misguided sincerity, zeal and human effort to build what only God's supernatural intervention can produce... Will be denied participation in the Promise and in the Inheritance given only to the seed of the Promise. They will be "cast out". Consider Gal. 4: 22-30. Eternity will demonstrate the futility of following the Commission's Call without having fulfilled the qualifying INDISPENSABLE STIPULATION and its corollary of doing nothing apart from "abiding in Him and He in us." How sad to contemplate the extensiveness and persistence of eternally ineffectual ministry and church effort. And the regrets their promulgators will suffer upon arriving at Heaven's Gate empty-handed. Reiterating, it is not the first or the biggest house on the block erected that is important: but rather it is the one left standing after the tests of fire, wind and flooding have abated. Being "hearers' of the Word or even "parrots" of the Word, can never replace being a "doer" of Christ's teachings and commandments. Building "judgement-proof" Dwelling Places can ONLY be done in full compliance with ALL of Christ's stipulations. "Apart from Me (fully and continually abiding in Me) you can do nothing (of truly spiritual and eternal merit and fruitfulness). Jn. 15:5b Consider... Jn. 15:26, 1-16. I Cor. 3:13-15; Mt. 7:21-23.

REMNANT INITIATIVE. Even if only a few do so, some must take it upon themselves to do WHATEVER IS NECESSARY to become his Dwelling Place... searching out for others of like mind, irrespective of their church affiliation, etc... with whom to gather and seek.

DISCERNING DISCRIMINATION- SELECTING THE FIRST BUILDING STONES. For fruitful intercession, it is important to carefully select those who will form the Building Stones Prayer Group that together will seek to become the Lord's Dwelling Place.

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DISQUALIFIED-CONSIDERING THE ACHAN FACTOR!! It should be noted that a great hindrance, both to the prayers offered and to their answers, will be caused by participants who permit and practice sin in their lives. As occurred with Achan, in looking upon His children as a body, the sins of the few (or even the one) are viewed by the Lord as the sins of the (whole) flock. Therefore, the ongoing sins of "the one" or the few grieve the Lord to the extent that, from the flock as a whole, innocent and guilty alike... He withdraws certain corporate blessings, crucial and needful to the ongoing success of His purposes. Also, collectively the flock (the innocent not excluded) receives the appropriate disciplinary measures and judgments He determines. Consider ... Josh. 7, I Cor. 5:7-13; Rom. 16:17-18; II Thes. 3:14-15; I Tim. 6:3-5; Tit. 3:10-11; Rev. 2:5; 2:14-16;3:3;3:15-19.

SELECTION CRITERIA. Those selected to form the Building Stones Prayer Group should evidence a thorough commitment to obey the Lord, as regards... The forsaking of EACH and ALL of his sins. Bearing "fruits unto repentance" readily seen by those who surround him. Renouncing the values and claims to which those in this world (family members included) would subject him. Rectifying his marital status to that of Biblical requirements. Consider... Mt. 19:9. Denying himself, in all that regards his carnal nature and selfishness, in his quest for his own sanctification. Displaying the fruits of meekness and submission in all of his relationships. Being transparent and humble-minded with respect to His spiritual state, his willingness to seek help from the Prayer Group's leadership in his internal struggles, his commitment to the others of the Prayer Group, to seek together with them, to become the Dwelling Place of the Lord, His relationship with the others, His "seeking first" the things related to the coming of "the Kingdom of God and His righteousness." and material pursuits. His being involved in unwarranted "extra-curricular" commitments, as well as by, his job and career involvement. The nature, quality and time of his leisure amusement and his spending habits. A strong prayer life reflected by the time given to daily intercession, as well as by the scope, faith and perseverance of his prayers. The quality (not the quantity) of the group members is of great importance! Good intentions and spiritual aspirations, however well verbalized of themselves, are insufficient. These above QUALIFICATIONS must be the part of the daily life of each of the Building Stones... if they are to be "heard on high" and "answered with fire." Consider... Ezra 1:2; 2:62-64; 9:1-4,6-15; 10:1-6.

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LATE QUALIFIERS. At future times, others... those who have since begun to walk according to the established precepts, and persevered therein over the weeks (or months) can be added to the group, with the view to raise up a powerful and growing army of intercessors. Consider Ezra 10:7-19.

CAUTION- DANGER AHEAD. Though "exclusiveness" and "cultism" are serious dangers that the Enemy may attempt to foment in the heart of the Building Stones Prayer Group. There are precedents in both O.T and N.T. where selectivity was employed. Christ Himself deemed it necessary for certain purposes.

BRINGING THE FIRST STONES TOGETHER- GENERATING PRE-REVIVAL DYNAMICS. Working with the prayer group, so that its prayers are unhindered, requires ongoing attention. ONE ACCORD. The members must be of one mind (having the same vision and prayer burdens) in key areas: The seriousness and commitment before the Lord with which the Holy Spirit's Outpouring is being sought. The Lord will not come to Dwell in a divided house. Consider... Mt. 18:19.

BOND OF UNITY- AARON'S ANOINTING. A cohesive sense of unity needs to be built among the members... By sharing, caring, serving and praying from the heart. For the personal needs, struggles, blessings and victories of each one. Permitting no barriers to remain. It is upon a unified people, who have donned their priestly garments, that the Holy Spirit will descend. The Lord will feel estranged from a disassociated people and will resist coming. Consider... I Cor. 1:10; Phil. 2:1-4; Col. 3:12-14; Mk. 11:24-26; Ps.133.

HARNESSING THE TONGUE. Great care regarding the usage of the tongue is most important... Speaking only seasoned words of grace and edification. Refraining TOTALLY from releasing the tongue's venom, wounding others and grieving the Holy Spirit. Words unfitly spoken and un-retracted with a repentant heart to the hearing of all concerned, will grieve the Holy Spirit as fully as would adultery. Consider ... Tit. 3:2; Eph. 4:29-31;5:4 Col. 4:6 Phil. 2:14-15; Mt. 5:37; Jas 3:2-12.

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OVERFLOWING THANKFULNESS. Developing a heart broken with thankfulness to the Lord is another key to unlocking God's heart... because of His blessings, great and small, recent and past. No longer being ungrateful or indifferent regarding His many mercies and blessings which "are new every morning". Offsetting ingratitude and carnal discontentment for not yet possessing all that is aspired to new blessings of greater transcendence will never be given until those already given are endearingly appreciated and thankfully acknowledged. Consider ... Col. 3:15, Thes. 5:18; Phil. 4:6-7

UNITED PRAYER. Offering prayer "in one accord" as one man, not so much verbally, as in the heart's yearning, must be attained, as a body fused into one; not as a collection of individuals. He will come to a people whose heart and cry are that of "One Man" and not to the collection of self-centred, individualistic and disjointed intercessors. Consider... II Chr. 7:12-14 Jer. 29:10-14a; Mt. 18:19; Acts 2:1

PERSEVERANCE. The dedication to perseverance as many months and years as is required... without restructuring the priorities until the Lord answers... Should be cultivated in their hearts. Had Abraham desisted, he never would have received his Promise. Consider ... Rom. 4:17:22; Heb. 11:13-16

CONVICTION. Allowing and honouring the Holy Spirit's Conviction to settle over the group and responding in each of His dealings will prevent His being grieved.

CONTINUING. Upon receiving the Spirit's "Outpouring" (their "Pentecost"), the Building Stones Prayer Group should continue daily in prayer, in spite of the overwhelming workload that will come. Ongoing group prayer is one of the keys to perpetuating "Revival". Revival's demise is usually foreshadowed by negligence in prayer. Consider... Acts. 3:1;6:3-4.

EVICTION NOTICE-CUTTING OFF THE BABYLONIAN ROMAN SPIRITS CLAIMS AND AVENUES OF ACCESS. Upon establishing the above thoroughly, the Building Stones Prayer Group should deal with the spiritual dimension...

REPENTANCE OF INFIDELITY. Repentance before the Lord, for having partaken of true Christianity's Impostor, and her errors, is very fitting.

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PRUNING BACK. Under God's leading and confirmation, shut down ALL activities and ministries whose lifeblood is derived from Babylonian Christianity. Place all the "inherited" customs, formats and mentalities up for review before the Scriptures and the Lord's own leading. With care to avoid falling into fanaticism or grosser deceptions. Do the same with all tenets of belief. Examine the group's financial footings and infrastructure and cut off that which is defiled by the Greed Creed, looking to the Lord Himself, in prayer and faith for guidance and for His provision. Using Paul's allegory, "CAST OUT" the bondwoman AND her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman." That which was engendered and nurtured by the flesh's (sincere but mistaken) efforts will not inherit of the Promise of the Spirit's Fullness of blessing and "Revival". Consider... Gal. 4:22-31. For "Revival" to come, the Building Stones must be as thorough and as ruthless as the Israelites were commanded to be with all Anathemas... Not even "touching the unclean thing."

PURIFY WHAT IS UNCLEAN. Cleanse that which does not have to be discarded, and which is "only" slightly tainted by Babylonian Christianity.

NOT A MAGIC FORMULA. These procedures, unaccompanied by the other components of seeking to become His Dwelling Place, will prove to be futile.

PRACTICALITIES-SOME SUGGESTIONS. How the meetings are conducted will have a significant bearing on their outcome.

GETTING STARTED. Schedule the prayer meetings according to the willingness, desire and availability of the group's members. Beginning with a minimum of 3 times weekly, to avoid losing momentum, a sense of continuity, and growth to the cares and distractions of this world. Much is lost by praying together less frequently. Prior to the prayer time, a brief time of praise and for prayerful self-examination is beneficial.

Discovering Third Heavens' Building Code-One Other Meeting Weekly for the Study of Scriptural Guidelines.

Studies in the Word can also be combined with the prayer meetings, as necessary to develop... A greater longing for the Lord, prayer burdens, vision, faith, anointing, conviction and the Fear of the Lord, repentance.

TIMELY CONSIDERATION. Word constraining the meetings to a prescribed time limit.

ORDERING PRIORITIES. By prior arrangement, have each one attend to those matters that otherwise would put a time restriction on one's participation, even in prolonged meetings, when these should unexpectedly occur (and they will)

UNHURRIED. In determining the meetings' "length," do not give preference to "the clock" to people's impatience, or to their conflicting commitments. Grieving the Holy Spirit by honouring things of lesser importance.

PATIENCE. The more that "the cares of this world" accumulate in hearts, the more unhurried time is needed for them to dissolve away in His presence and under His dealing... to allow the Holy Spirit the necessary time to work in the hearts present and to allow the participants sufficient opportunity to fully discharge the burdens of their hearts in prayer before the Lord.

HONORING THE HOLY SPIRIT. The Holy Spirit will not operate in the confines of the North American penchant for rigid scheduling and quick meetings... Which impose on Him a "shutdown" time, regardless of what He wants to do. To Him it is of extreme disrespect, arrogance and insult to "hurry up" the proceedings and "be done" (or "outa here") because of other pressing things that need tending to. It is His people that need to learn sufficient flexibility, sensitivity and humility to adapt to His leadings and moving and not vice versa. "Revival" will not come on their timetable or at their convenience. It will come as they give Him full sway and obey Him fully, even in His unorthodox use of time.

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LIFTING ONE VOICE TO HEAVEN. The ongoing active participation of all members enhances the Prayer Group's effectiveness. One stronger voice at a time may lead in spontaneous prayers of substance (not "sentence prayers"). As the remaining members add their own audible prayers with their own words, all blending into "one voice". Grow in the cry of the heart (mentioned frequently by the psalmists), not settling for insipid, lukewarm, dry, formal and ununctionless prayers. As the burden grows in many, a broken heart and flowing tears will become part of their prayer. Give liberty to the "Spirit of Prayer" in the heart -rendering travail that He will bring, as the "Day of Visitation" draws nearer.

"PROVING ALL THINGS" Test and prove the leadings, burdens, revelations, visions and other supernatural occurrences, experienced by the group members in and out of the meetings, credited to the Holy Spirit!! Against a balanced interpretation of the Scriptures, Against the general witness and consensus of the more spiritually mature (whether "gifted" or not), Against the track record of the gift's recipient (as to his general accuracy and reliability), Against the "fruits of the Spirit" in his overall life, attitudes, and motivations. Safeguarding against the gifts and the "gifted" from altering the purpose and focus of the meetings and the group or usurping their direction or bringing dissension by appealing to their supporters.

ON THE VERGE. Certain "Revival" histories seem to demonstrate that, sometime after beginning to meet on a once-daily or twice-daily basis for an hour or more of concerted prayer "things begin to happen". Where the group is spiritually homogeneous in their vision, their petition and in their pursuit of an obedient walk with the Lord. The increased frequency of prayer allows for decreased distractions and interruptions by temporal concerns. The focus on "things above" becomes easier, conditioning the heart for Heaven's Treasures. Conviction of Sin as needed, deepens its work in their lives. A spirit of intercessory travail is poured out on them. Unusually intense and awesome manifestations of His presence transpire among them... Touching and transforming them in ways whose effects are permanent and noticeable by all. Extraordinary answers to prayer readily produce the working of God's Spirit in others. (Among the Christians and the non- Christians alike). The "Outbreak" of "Revival" in full force is witnessed soon thereafter.

AVOID BECOMING SIDETRACKED. Keep a clear focus as to the purpose of the meetings.

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THOROUGHNESS IN PETITIONS PRESENTED. Pray specifically and expectantly for the fulfillment of each of the provisions contained in the Scriptures referred to in his outline... (When studied, quite an extensive list can be compiled.) II Pet. 1:3-4

SECONDARY EFFECTS. Prayer should also be made for "Revivals" but always stipulating that first His SUPREME PURPOSE of Coming to DWELL among His people be fulfilled.

MATURING PRAYER. Pray according to the sense of need, burden and vision that deepens within the group as their understanding grows. (Which it will, as they become more familiarized with the great needs of their heart, the Church, the world, and with all that the Lord wants to do.)

A CLOSER LOOK AT THIRD HEAVEN'S CONSTRUCTION GUIDELINES. Fire came down from Heaven, when the Tabernacle and Temple had been erected and the sacrifices offered, according to the Divine Instructions. If our construction does not adhere to the Heavenly Pattern, the Holy Spirit's fire will not fall!! Consider Ex. 40:34-35; Lev. 9:24; II Chr. 7:1-2.

Embracing the Full Word of God and Each of its Components- Laying Aside Doctrinal Presuppositions and Prejudices.

IMMUTABLE. God's Truth remains forever unchangeable, though it slowly grows more glorious to our perception. It does not change with each generation, as do history textbooks, edited to manipulate the minds of the students to predetermined objectives. Yesterday's "Revival" revelations never become antiquated and should not be discarded. Instead, they should be studied and incorporated. As a necessary ingredient to seeking Today's "Visitation." They are not confused with aspects of prevailing doctrinal error and residual Religiosity.

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ONE INTEGRATED WHOLE. The Gospel provision for man's condition, and its message to the inquiring sinner, though diverse in its message to the inquiring sinner, though diverse in its presentations, is one interdependent totality. To segregate its components, Ignoring or discarding one or more of its False Gospel. Prejudices, fomented by previous exposures to Movement Belief Systems and to other false or unbalanced teachings, must be corrected. The entire Gospel message, with all of its promises, provisions and conditions must be embraced if "Revival" is to fall in Fulness and remain.

Chapter Five

Fully Revived

CONSCIOUS APPROPRIATION. The exercise of an active faith in each of the Full Gospel's provisions, commandments, and promises is an indispensable aspect of a true embracing of His Word. Consider Ezra 7:10.

Preparing the Altar for the Fire to Fall- the Sanctification Cleansing filling.

THE SANCTIFICATION INGREDIENT. The Gospel's Sanctification provision of permanent and total victory over the Flesh is an integral part of the Gospel. In seeking to become His Dwelling Place corporately, there must be a corresponding quest for total personal sanctification. He will not come to dwell among the squalor of recurring carnality's ills. Some suggestions for getting started: comprehend the need for sanctification in one's own life by an Honest appraisal of his inner condition. Become familiar with Sanctification's potential and promises. Consider ... Mt. 5:48, I Pet. 1:15-16; Gen. 17:1b-2, II Cor. 7:1; Heb. 12:14; Mat. 5:8, I Jn. 3:3, Ezek. 36:26-29; Eph. 5:25b-27; Acts. 20:32; 26:18b; 15:8-9, Rom. 6:7-8, Col. 2:11-12, 20a; 3:1-4a; 1:25-27; Heb. 2:11; II Thes. 2:13; Jn. 15:21,23; Eph. 3:16-19; II Pet. 1:3-4; Gal. 1:15-16; 4:19; Phil. 1:21; Heb. 4:9-11; I Jn. 3:6,8,10; Col. 1:28; Jude 24:25. Work on identifying all of the "Old Man's dominion and influence... (His sins, his selfishness, his attitudes, his mentality, etc..) In one's life. Work diligently on a thorough self-denial of the Old Nature's ways and demands. Consider... Eph. 4:22-23, Rom. 6:17-18.

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VALUING WHAT HIS COMING WILL PROVIDE. Become obsessed with... Learning to love the Father and the Lord Jesus with all of one's heart, soul, mind and strength. Forgetting all that lies behind the "good" and the "bad". Relinquishing all advantages, benefits and privileges that are one's in one's life and in this world. Suffering all of the losses necessary joyfully, counting even the best of one's life as dung. Treasuring nothing other than an intimate knowledge, revelation, and communion with the Lord. "Gaining Christ", "Being found IN Him", "Having His righteousness, which is by faith", the "excellency of knowing Christ", "Knowing the power of His resurrection". "Knowing the fellowship of His sufferings", "Being made conformable unto His death", "Seeking to become perfect", "Seeking to attain unto the resurrection of the dead", "Seeking to apprehend that for which also one is apprehended of Christ Jesus." "Reaching forth unto those things which are before", "Pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus", Not questing primarily after "Revival's" Secondary Effects. Consider ... Phil. 3:7-15.

"ONLY CAN CHANGE OUR HEARTS"- SETTING THE STAGE FOR THE CONVICTING WORK of the Holy Spirit in the group that seeks to become His Dwelling Place:

EXHORTATION & ENCOURAGEMENT. A call to respond to the Lord with all of the preparatory measures necessary through the appropriate ministry of the Word must be boldly sounded, as Conviction of Sin works along with the ministry of the Word. A clear, forthright expounding of the Word should be made, applied directly to those in the group itself, as regards... Enumerated sins, the sinful, carnal nature, the righteous standards of the Law of the Life exemplified by Jesus Christ. Judgement and eternal punishment, the "exceedingly great and precious promises" (II Pet. 1:3-4). A call to exercise active, focused faith in each prayer and in each promise employed.

CALLING OUT TOGETHER. Call out persistently in corporate and individual prayer for the Holy Spirit's Conviction to come in full power and to thoroughly search the recesses of each heart. Consider ... Jer. 17:9-10; Ps. 19:19:12-13.

NOT GIVING UP. Press through until A full cleansing is experienced, and the "peace that passes all understanding" and the "joy unspeakable and full of glory" are obtained.

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THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM. The Holy Spirit's Conviction of Sin and the Fear of the Lord, referred to as "the beginning of (true spiritual) wisdom" are 2 sides of the same coin. If the Spirit of Wisdom is to be coveted and pursued above all earthly riches and His people are still without it (or Him) in their lives... with all due resolve, they must seek to truly have The Fear of the Lord come into their lives. By the work of the Fear of the Lord and His fruit in one's life, the way is prepared for the Spirit of Wisdom (the Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit) to be poured out on him and bring him into an entirely different plane of life and blessing. Consider... Pr. 1:7a; 9:19; Ps. 111:10. Many Blessings of a truly Spirit-filled life (and the likely pitfalls along the way) are specified in Proverbs 1:9. The study of these chapters is highly recommended to the student of Sanctification and "Revival".

"KNOWING THEREFORE THE TERROR OF THE LORD" The Holy Spirit's Conviction of Sin, Fear of the Lord arrives with the manifest, awesome/awful presence of the Lord in the midst of those whom He seeks to convert from their carnal and sinful lifestyle. His awesome, holy, righteous, manifest presence comes and exposes the remaining sinfulness of each heart. Mal. 3:1-5 2 Cor. 5:11

REVELATION OF SIN to the unchurched and churchied alike, conviction of sin is a deeply impacting revelation of the Holy Spirit regarding the depravity and wretchedness of one's condition. The vileness of each sin. The willfulness with which they are practiced being judged by the righteous standard of Christ's life and righteousness. To the churchied the inadequacy of their religiosity, observed in their daily life. His utterly defenseless posture as a convicted sinner. The reality of Hell and eternal punishment. The fairness and appropriateness of the condemnation to eternal punishment he deserves.

ON HUNDRED AND EIGHTY DEGREES GETTING EVERYTHING RIGHT. Fully admit and repent of all sin, renouncing and repudiating it.

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TRANSFORMATION AT LAST!! THE FRUIT OF CONVICTION OF SIN IN THE SON-REBELLIOUS will produce, an Excruciating agony of heart, upon seeing his own wretchedness. Producing also grief, brokenness, weeping, travail. An abhorrence of his sins. A sense of being deeply disheartened regarding his eternal destiny. Due to confronting the reality of his current inner condition. A heart truly prepared for the "Good News". A disregard for and a divesting of one's hypocritical and religious appearances, previously maintained. A public, almost compulsive, confession of sins. A deep, thorough and permanent repentance. A true believing faith, upon hearing the Full Gospel's provisions. Deliverance from demonic bondage, as the refuges of sin are exposed and repented of a great abiding love for the Savior and the Father. A life truly FILLED with the HOLY Spirit, A Continual communion with the Lord, an unfolding revelation of Jesus Christ, A growing wisdom, revelation and spiritual understanding regarding... "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 us-ward 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." Consider... Eph. 1:18-19. A deepening worship life, An evangelistic fervor and grace, An abiding anointing for service and ministry, A heart and life of joy, praise and worship, A "Spirit of prayer", A lifestyle of heart obedience. A channel through which the same Conviction of Sin can come upon others, spending the "Revival" abroad. Etc.

THE ANGER OF SINNING AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT- SOME CONSEQUENCES OF RESISTING THE HOLY SPIRIT'S CONVICTION: A hardening of the heart in deception and rebellion, A withdrawal of the Spirit's Conviction, A false peace (due to an absence of conviction). An indifference to and (later) a rejection of the things of the Lord. His being given over to his lusts, his vile affections, a reprobate mind and to the further judgments they will bring. Consider... Rom. 1:20-32; II Thes.2:8-11,12. His becoming an enemy of God, His work and the "Revival" and possibly joining the "Judas Iscariot" Company. His being given over to various intensities and varieties of demon control and possession. His being given over to other forms of judgment. His possibly being irreversibly doomed to perdition without the Holy Spirit's Conviction and wooing, he cannot be saved.

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FRUIT EVALUATION. Without the searching work of the Holy Spirit's Conviction of Sin, the impact of the Gospel Message is little more than superficial on its hearers... As evidence by the merely cosmetic changes produced in most of its Contemporary converts.

AT THE DOOR!! Once the Spirit of Conviction has come and has been permitted to thoroughly do His work is now ready to receive its new RESIDENT in fullness.

THE FRUIT OF HIS COMING TO DWELL AMONG HIS PEOPLE. It includes Rent heavens, the Enemy's kingdom is overthrown and the Lord's established. He Himself fully dwelling in and among His church (es). He Himself fully dwelling in the life of His children (individually). A (relatively) full revelation of Jesus Christ, to His people... and through them, to many in the world around them.

GLORY SUCH AS WE HAVE NEVER SEEN BEFORE. Henceforth, the "Christian life" and "church life" will never be the same. They will acquire heavenly qualities, whose surpassing glory will cause the former expressions of Christianity to shrink back with the blush of shame.

The N.T will spring to life in an unimagined way, becoming a treasure map whose code has become unlocked. Jesus will be seen and known by the redeemed and frequently worshipped for hours on end. His people will now be endued to carry the Full Gospel to the ends of the earth in His power, as a true witness to all the nations. Gathering a vast harvest and edifying His Habitation throughout the earth, before the close of this age. A remnant in Israel will be provoked to jealousy by the glory He pours out on the Gentile believers by dwelling among them, and receive Jesus Christ as their Lord, Saviour, and Messiah. With the Glorious, spotless garments now donned, ready to be united to their Bridegroom. His people will unceasingly call out to Him, "Come, Lord Jesus, come!!" and He will!

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Running with David in the wilderness is a necessary part of leaving what God has rejected and finding Christ as they did in 1 Samuel 22. The Lord himself was led of the Spirit into the wilderness, and there it was through his encounter with the devil that he was tempted and prevailed. Those men who left Saul had three characteristics. They were in distress, in debt and discouraged. The kind of men and women who will seriously take the steps needed to be His dwelling place will know and understand this statement. Given the sad condition of professing Christianity, their hearts are burdened and, as a result, discouraged. How can the glory be restored? How can we see our King high and lifted up once again? This is the task that is put before us. What will you do? The stakes are high; the time of our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

The night is far spent; the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day, not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof. Romans 14:12-14

To neglect the incomprehensible provision of Christ's grace that enables Him to rend the heavens and come down and DWELL in our midst- by preferring our sin, our lukewarmness, our religiosity, and by avoiding the cost that we must pay to acquire it- is not only inordinately foolish, but also hazardous indeed.

Therefore, we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will? Heb.2:1-4

However, to embrace this provision and to pursue it, is to enter into the "earnest" of Heaven, truly receiving as much of "Heaven on Earth" as we can bear.

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But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 1 Cor. 2:9

The requirements for such are summarized easily enough: a relinquishing of our Religiosity; vision and faith, repentance and obedience, and prayer "in one accord". To those who comply and persist with the requirements, limitless riches and treasures will unfold.

Upon receiving the benefits of "Rent Heavens" and those of His Coming Down to make His people HIS DWELLING PLACE. We will need to address another great issue: What are the keys to conserving, perpetuating and augmenting His "DWELLING-NESS" in our midst? How can we protect His priceless Gift from being lost to declension, Babylon's overtures, and apostasy, as has occurred repeatedly throughout history? Surely, as it is meant to be for His children individually, so it is meant to be for His churches...

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

For His keeping power is great...

"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen. Jude 24-25"

As with Abraham, Paul and others, In their increasingly difficult tests, sent to further

purify them and to elicit greater maturity from them, and fashion them more in the

likeness of Christ life and walk even in the face of required loss and death. Our

whole-hearted resolve must be to ever grow into new levels of obedience and faith

to which Our Lord will beckon us. The failure of others to perpetually walk and grow

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into His Fullness in no way negates His glorious promises as to its feasibility, and it certainly is no reason for us to admit defeat. Rather, by means of faith, prayer, love, and obedience, let us adopt Paul's passion.

"Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you". (Phil. 3:8-15)

Then, when eventually called upon to undergo the Father's Death Sentence, we will not shrink back: but rather we will go through with it and come into its ensuing Resurrection with even more Abundant Life and Fruitfulness than we had previously known or dreamed.

May He grant us of His grace to "barrage Heaven's gates" until He comes down to DWELL among us.

Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul. Heb. 10:35-39.

Chapter Six

Christ is the Pattern

Thou son of man, shew the house to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities: and let them measure the pattern.

And if they be ashamed of all that they have done, shew them the form of the house, and the fashion thereof... Ezekiel 43:10,11

God has opened the door of understanding to see clearly that the house men have been building is not according to his blueprint. He is giving us light through the Spirit of His Son, the blueprint of the house. The religious system is still blinding the minds of millions of churchgoers, not understanding the blueprint. The house that HE is building is seen in Christ. The Ekklesia is a revelation of Christ. When the assembly gathers, we each are members of his body. We each are ministering Christ to one another. We don't come to worship, but to encourage and edify one another. The blueprint is Christ mediating HIMSELF through each member of the body.

There are two metaphors in the New Testament: Ekklesia is a body and a building. The building that the LORD is building are from living stones, those, we who have been regenerated by the Spirit. We, each as living stones, are to be built up together, into a habitation where God lives. In Christ we are the living stones of this spiritual house with Christ the corner stone.

And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:20-22). 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. (1 Peter 2:5)

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The Old Testament gives us spiritual pictures throughout its text, each one laden with spiritual meaning. The tabernacle that we see in the wilderness is a type of Christ. It was there that the priests ministered in the sanctuary. It was their job to offer up service for the people on behalf of God's divine order. It was the priest who handled the holy things, and the high priest who passed judgment. We who are new creations in Christ are those priests, offering up spiritual sacrifices, which is our spiritual worship. There is no special class anymore as it was in the Old Testament. Each in Christ is a royal priest, and the only offering we have is the sacrifice of praise.

By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. Hebrews 13:15

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a 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. 1 Peter 2:9,10

What has happened in the religious system called Christianity have created a special class of men who are regarded completely differently from everyone else. They called themselves THE MAN OF GOD. They are above everyone else. They have it all wrong. Leaders are not lords over God's people but servants. Leaders lead but have no authority in and of themselves as said Jesus to the twelve.

And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest. And he said unto them, the kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. For whether is greater, he that sits at meat, or he that serves? is not he that sits at meat? but I am among you as he that serves. Luke 22:24-27

The apostle Peter repeats the same thing, addressing the elders who he himself was one.

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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 examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. 1 Peter 5:1-4

Remember, brothers that Christ is your head, not another man, no matter what he may say otherwise. Don't allow yourself to be deceived by this class of men who lord it over you.

But I would have you know that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God. 1 Corinthians 11:3

There was a movement called the Shepharding movement back in the early seventies, which gained adherents through the New Wine magazine. They were teaching a hierarchy of authority. The man at the top was your shepherd, and under him were his sheep. By submitting to him, they said, you were submitting to God. By not submitting to him, you were in rebellion to God. This went on for a number of years until the whole thing fell apart. Some of you reading this may remember the five men who started it. It was pioneered by five teachers: Charles Simpson, Bob Mumford, Derek Prince, Don Basham, and Ern Baxter, based in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Shepherding Movement emphasized and promoted: authority, submission, discipleship, commitment in covenant relationships, loyalty, pastoral care, and spiritual covering.

"The Shepherding movement arose out of a concern for the weak commitment, shallow community, and the general worldliness characteristic of many American churches. To solve these perceived issues, members in the house church were taught to have life-decisions "covered" by the house-group leader, elder, or pastor. Such decisions included where to live and work, whom to marry, or whether to see a doctor when someone was ill." https://www.wikiwand.com/en/articles/Shepherding_movement

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There is no hierarchy in the body of Christ, and no man is your covering. It should be mutual submission to each other in humility with the scriptures, illuminated by the Spirit as our authority. The fivefold ministry (Ephesians 4:11) has no authority in and of themselves. We each submit ourselves to God. As Jesus submitted himself to the Father, so we too follow his example.

The example of Shepherding seeking to control others by religious manipulation is played out century after century. When will it ever end? When will those who are called by His name follow the illumination of the Spirit to hear the voice of God and walk out their lives as fellow royal priests? We need Christ our life, revealing himself to us all, without any religious bondage. The veil must be removed from our eyes to see Christ clearly.

Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech: And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not steadfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart. Nevertheless, when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away. Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.
2 Corinthians 3:12-18

The premise of this book is that Christianity with all of its denominations, schisms, doctrines, and practices actually has been given over to spiritual Babylon. Saul in the Old Testament represents this departure from God's leadership as king. Israel rejected their king and wanted a king like the other pagan nations.

Throughout history, this has happened repeatedly in what is called Christianity. Christ has been pushed out through their refusal to allow him to be head, to lead each member; to bring light through each part; to reveal himself through his body, with each part functioning. Formalism, performance, showmanship, programs, preaching, choirs, religious buildings, spectator gatherings, ego, pride, ambition, witchcraft, et al, has replaced the illumination of the Spirit of Christ.

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Is the Spirit of the LORD moving through each member? Is Christ head of the body, as He is to be the one directing every part, mediating Himself? May God by His Spirit open your eyes to the distress we're in, that has caused this matrix called Christianity.

"The Major Methodological flaw in Studies about Early Christian worship." I am quoting Tom Wadsworth from his website <https://www.tomwadsworth.com>. You can listen to his talk on YouTube here.

<https://youtu.be/0ft1AalQim4?si=vOQXbBwjXWbEIGlx>

Tom is teaching what a New Testament assembly looks like. He is speaking mostly to those who are still in the system called Christianity, where each one just watches the show up front. He himself admits that he has not yet been in a New Testament assembly. Of course, the challenge for him and everyone else is to begin to follow Christ's commands.

If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. 1 Cor.14:37

It is from the richness of the revelation of Christ that we each have a relationship with Him through the ministry of the Spirit. God reveals his Son to the inner man that we may see him and in seeing him we are transformed. It is this aspect of one's only spiritual walk that he is discovering just what God has done in making him a new creation.

Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more. Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 2 Corinthians 5:16,17

But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ. From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. Ephesians 4:16

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For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same function. 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 is taking the lead with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without dissimulation. (hypocrisy) Abhor that which is evil: cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectionate one another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another. Romans 12:4-10

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits' to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member but many. If the foot shall say, because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole where is the hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracle, then gifts of healing, governing, diversities of tongues. 1 Corinthians 12:7-28

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After reading the passages above, it becomes obvious the difference between the religious system called Christianity and the bible. The religious system of Christianity has rejected its head, refusing to obey the commandments of Christ. (1 Cor.14:37). The religious system is at odds with the God of the bible, with its religious relics, traditions, philosophies and worldly order. Around the world in every nation, the religious spirit continues to reject its head, Christ Jesus the LORD. The religious System loves not the truth. Do you love the truth? Is not the program just an excuse for disobedience? Why call me Lord, Lord and do not the things which I say? Are you not doing what Israel did when they listened to the false prophets in their day?

You pastors, priests, and all who call themselves leaders yet reign over an assembly are the Sauls of the earth. As Israel rejected their king, so Christianity has rejected Christ as their head. The confusion, politics, ambition, and antichrist spirit is why this body called Christianity is in complete spiritual captivity. The Babylonian captivity of the Jew is played out the same way with the religious organization called Christianity.

On The Means to Restore the Pre-eminence of Christ In the Earth Today

"And he said unto them, these are the words which I Spake unto you. While I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, and said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: and that repentance and remission of sins should he preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. Luke 24:44-47

"And ye are witnesses of these things.

"And behold. I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem. until ye be endued with power from on high." (Luke 24:44-49.)

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"And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water: but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. Acts 4:4,5

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: And ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:4-5, 8.)

"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb. and by the word of their testimony: and they loved not their lives unto the death. - (Rev. 12:11.)

On the Means to Restore the Pre-eminence of Christ in the Earth Today

That Christ Might Have the Pre-eminence

CONFERRED TO HIM BY THE FATHER. It has always been the Father's will and purpose to make Christ "all in all." He is to envelop everything, and everything is to be permeated by Him. In other words, Christ is to fill everything, and everything is to be filled by Him.

He is to be "the Head over all things." All are to honour Him. Before Him "every knee shall bow." All things are to be under His domination. He is to be "pre-eminent in all things," to far surpass all others, and be exceedingly outstanding when compared to anything and everything else. Such was the Father's purpose before the Luciferian Rebellion, before Adam's Fall, and later, in spite of its aftermath. It remains His purpose today, even despite rebellious Israel and apostatized Christianity.

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"Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 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. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the pre-eminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; and, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven." (Col. 1:15-20.)

THE SHARING OF HIS THRONE. His redeemed saints are to have a glorious involvement in the extension of Christ's kingdom throughout the world and throughout the universe.

"That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven. and which are on earth; even in him: in whom also we have obtained an inheritance, predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: that we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ." (Eph. 1:10-12.)

"Operation Rescue," providing for the regeneration and rehabilitation of those who embrace Christ's Gospel, not only lifts fallen, but now repentant and believing men from their corrupt state to one in which Christ can envelop, embrace, and fill them, but it also empowers them to join in a partnership with Him in which His glory, majesty, and power are further extended to new domains both in Time and in Eternity. What a remarkable plan of redemption!! How "unsearchable the riches" of His wisdom!!

"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins: Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus." (Eph. 2:1-7.)

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*"Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord."
(Eph. 3:8-11.)*

"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what the hope of his calling is, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward 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 above 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 fulness of him that filleth all in all." (Eph. 1:18-23.)

"Now unto him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." (Eph. 3:20-21.)

BEARERS AND STEWARDS OF HIS GLORY AND THE REVELATION OF HIS PERSON. As these purposes become fulfilled, the Lord Jesus Christ will be prominently known throughout the earth, just as He is in Heaven. Incredibly, it will not occur without the instrumentality of His people.

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"So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him. And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD. As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever. Arise shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising." (Isa. 59:19-60:3.)

"And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him. the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel aid might_ the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and One shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid: and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people: to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious." (Isa. 11:2-4, 6. 9-10.)

*"For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea."
(Hab. 2:14.)*

PREEMINENCE ILLUSTRATED. John's revelation into Heaven's activities offers a glimpse of the eminence Jesus Christ is meant to have here on earth (and will have one day) and the exaltation that will be ascribed to Him by all of her inhabitants.

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"And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands: saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. And the four beasts said. Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever." (Rev. 5:11-14.)

SPRINGING FROM EXPERIENCE AND REVELATION. Such an outpouring of adoration can only be offered to the Lord by the innumerable multitudes because of a deep-seated, abiding and growing comprehension and appreciation of His greatness, His majesty, His holiness, His worthiness, and His love, etc., in their hearts. That KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD, summoning forth that unanimous, spontaneous overflow of worship and service, can only come by an unfolding REVELATION OF HIS PERSON to those who love and serve Him.

In Heaven, then, there is a gradual but continual unveiling of the Infinite Father and the Son to its inhabitants in Their indescribable attributes and characteristics, evoking ever deepening eruptions of corporate worship and praise. This will be one of many facets of Eternal Life.

Obstructing the Son's Glory: No pre-eminence Here

Walking Amidst The Golden Candlesticks Final

NO SMALL FEAT. Currently, however, here on earth the REVELATION OF THE FATHER AND HIS SON, Jesus Christ, is almost totally hidden from her inhabitants. The household of the Church, generally speaking, is not excluded from this phenomenon. Consequently, They currently have no pre-eminence here. The Father and the Son are not the focus of earth's inhabitants' affections or attention. Though earth's celebrities may frequently evoke loud exclamations of adulation, our Lord generally does not receive any genuine outbursts of corporate worship and praise, even from the ranks of His Remnant in the Church. The Adversary has raised up innumerable substitutes to take the place of Christ's supremacy, appealing to an infinite variety of cultural, religious, and individual values and preferences. He has been as successful within the Church as without, causing man's praises and affections to be lavished on anything but the Lord Himself. One result is that the earth's vast domain (the Church included) is under his undisputed sway.

BREAKING CAPTIVITY'S HOLD. As of yet, the liberation of earth from Satan's immediate domain has not been effected, though through Christ's victory on the Cross the undertaking is far advanced. His Kingdom's counter-revolutionary activities against the Enemy's earthly rule in given geographic regions succeed to the degree that segments of His Church stir themselves to appropriate action, taking initiative on His behalf — in repentance, holiness, prayer, faith, spiritual warfare, evangelism, true worship, and lastly but foremostly, seeking Him and His face, for Who He is. As some who are counted among His Remnant earnestly seek Him, a REVELATION OF HIMSELF is given to them, bringing many mighty changes in their lives and service to Him. He then disperses them under His anointing and leading, using them to carry forth the "Word of God and the Testimony of Jesus Christ," producing many believers and bringing the liberation of the earth closer to its eventual total victory.

"Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me. and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me. when ye shall search for me with all your heart. And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity." (Jer. 29:12-14a.)

God's Proven Means to Establish Christ's Pre-eminence in the Earth: Yesterday's Witnesses

Walking Amidst The Golden Candlesticks Final

HIS USE OF WITNESSES. For the most part, the REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST does not come directly from the Holy Spirit to multitudes of individuals, either individually scattered about everywhere, or in groupings of people. Stated in other terms, visions, such as those received by Isaiah or Paul, are not released on massive scales. Generally, the REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST first comes to one or more individuals who have been so favoured, rewarding their faith and persistence in having sought His face. Through the revelation-encounter given to these new "witnesses," He establishes His pre-eminence in their heart and life (and consequently, in that of those surrounding them, as they eagerly share their life-transforming experiences). The KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD is imparted through these instruments of His grace to others with spiritual hunger and true disciples' hearts, causing His Pre-eminence to grow in conjunction with the increasing numbers of His followers.

"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. This then is the message which we have heard of him ..." (1 John 1:1-5a.)

MADE A WITNESS BY THE ULTIMATE WITNESS. By the work of the Holy Spirit, those who are truly His and are in Him know Him in a way that far surpasses the most comprehensive grasp of biblical content, historical knowledge of the N.T. events and cultures, and doctrinal correctness — things at which the 'natural man' can become quite adept.

"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. HE shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you." (Jn. 16:13-14.)

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"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." (I Cor. 2:9-10a, 14.)

"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." (Eph. 1:16b-17.)

"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." (II Cor. 3:18.)

Faithfully and skillfully bearing witness to Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit is able to reveal Him to those saints whose hearts are deemed prepared, giving them not just 'an experience', but a profound life-changing revelatory knowledge of (an experiential knowing) Jesus Christ. Not infrequently, with the Holy Spirit's REVELATION OF THE LORD comes His divine `enablement' to share the REVELATION OF JESUS with others in a manner that will impart some of that same revelation of Him to their inward man.

INTERACTIVE WITNESSES. Having had "shine unto them ... the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God," and having been transformed thereby, the disciples are gathered together and are made to be His multi-faceted Body, that through the coordinated expressions of the many-membered Body of Christ, with the aid those more advanced and perhaps gifted, and with the continual aid of the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation, they might all grow together into a much fuller KNOWLEDGE OF HIM.

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"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." (Eph. 4:11-16.)

Such spiritual growth and development is an ongoing process that requires a humble, responsive obedience on their part, to continually adapt to the new and different things He brings along their way, as He speaks and ministers to them from within the 'Body' context, and as He deals with them individually, each one seeking Him 'in the secret place.'

HOLY HEADLINES. Generally, it is when these "witnesses" are thrust out by Him into spheres of public ministry that He then is revealed through their lives and public testimony to the Church and to the world around them. Because of the overpowering nature of the revelatory work of the Holy Spirit in their inward man individually, and in their midst corporately, and by virtue of the Lord's grace on them, these groupings of 'called-out ones,' or ecclesia, make the Lord Jesus known to many 'round about in the world. Their "endowment with power from on high" enables the "witnesses" to impart some of their own REVELATION OF CHRIST and His things to others, bringing them under the Holy

Making the Pre-eminent Christ Unknown to the Individual: Blinding the Mind and Heart To Conceal Christ

It is quite evident, then, that the great Dragon has been quite effective in hiding the KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST and His Gospel from much of the earth's vast populace today, and even from those areas and peoples who once had received quite an impartation of the KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD through Revival Visitations in past eras.

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A look at some of his craftsmanship might be helpful. How does the antichrist Adversary accomplish this task?

LUSTS AND FEARS. Without much oversimplification, it can be said that the entire world system is managed by the Enemy's playing on humanity's feeble carnal nature and weaknesses, in appealing to man's lusts (i.e. desires that hold empty illusions and promises of selfish fulfillment and gratification) and fears.

No pursuit of this life is left untainted by lusts' lures:

Relationships. family, career. work, financial income, economic security, transportation, communications, religion, morals, politics, education, self-improvement, medicine, health, clothing, grooming, news, the information explosion, sports, entertainment, leisure time, idols, celebrities, championship teams, the best this and the best that, and - last but not least -shopping (now America's favorite pastime) with its deceptive merchandising and myriads of selections. etc.

Fears, generated by misinformation, threats, problems, pressures, prejudices, and the proliferation of evil also play into the Adversary's hand in the same way.

"ALL THAT IS IN THE WORLD." Using effective sensory input, appealing to the vanity of the heart and abstract fears, the Adversary promises personal advantage and gratification to all. In one way or another, all areas of life in the world system fall prey to "the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life."

John warned:

"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. (1 in. 2:16.)"

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BRAINWASHING WITH TRIVIAL PURSUITS. One of the Adversary's principal modus operandi is the ceaseless barrage and saturation of man's being and awareness with anything and everything that is not rooted in Christ, be it inherently sinful or merely 'neutral.' Almost without exception, each person is pelleted by a thousand-and-one pressures, obligations, commitments, alternatives, distractions, fears, desires, and limitless pieces of information, all of which require his constant mental processing. Each and all of his faculties are thus assaulted, the Enemy trying to absorb his full attention, appealing to one or more of his many varied tastes and weaknesses.

Thus, the Adversary creates a vast overload - an overload of work, problems, stress, entertainment, information, indulgence, and even of Religiosity.

"(You) who were dead in trespasses and sins: wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath. even as others.- (Eph. 2:1b-3)

"Hear ye therefore the parable of the Sower. When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but endureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heard the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful." (Mat. 13: 18-22.)

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ANTI-CHRIST PRELIMINARIES — DELETING CHRIST FROM MAN'S THOUGHT. Behind much of the aforementioned relentless assault to fill mankind's mind and heart with trivial pursuits is the Adversary making the best possible use of man's egotistical carnality. What he offers to distract mankind's attention from focusing on Christ is not unlike the state-of-the-art 500-channel cable television that is now being marketed, or the availability of limitless volumes of information via computer-land's superhighway, the Internet -so much to choose from and become absorbed by!!. Under his orchestration, day after day, these 1,001 particulars are held up to each one's consciousness and so totally fill the viewing screen of his mind with their considerations and images that whatever there be of Christ in his thinking is either displaced or repressed, relegating Him to ambiguity, disregard, or oblivion.

Over-worked, over-burdened, over-committed, over-stressed, over-informed, over-entertained, over-fed, and over-indulged, almost no one has any remaining time or energies for spiritual pursuits, much less to truly seek Christ and maintain a vital and intimate relationship with Him. Thus, subtly, and not so subtly. the antichrists do their work, and the KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST is eradicated from man's daily life.

"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which

believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God. should shine unto them."
(II Cor. 4:3-4.)

GROSS IGNORANCE. Having made significant strides to consummate his purpose, the Enemy then begins to pursue the goal of making worshippers of the Dragon and his Beast of those same multitudes from whom the KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD was so effectually removed. Eventually, he will replace the KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD with a 'knowledge of the Dragon, the Beast, and their False Prophet.'

Making the Pre-eminent Christ Unknown to the Church:

Veiling the Understanding & Beguiling the Heart of Those That Take Christ's Name

Walking Amidst The Golden Candlesticks Final

LOST SAVIOR. For the Adversary to have been able to so thoroughly deceive the whole world, hiding from it the "light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God," virtually removing the true KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD from vast segments of earth's populace, a breakdown of significant proportions in the Church, Christ's witness on this globe, most certainly has taken place. Despite extensive missionary enterprises, vast Christian institutions, and gargantuan Christian media outreaches, the unchurched have little or no awareness of God and His laws, or of Christ and His Gospel. The 'Church' has been unable to proclaim Christ and His claims in a sufficiently persuasive manner to counter the Enemy's censorship drive. In terms of the vastness of this globe's populace, for the most part the witness on Christ's behalf has been neutralized.

HOW CAN IT BE?! The Lord Jesus Christ, who by all means should have the pre-eminence in the Church, is virtually unknown (experientially) among her extensive membership rolls, except a small, faithful Remnant. Not only has the Enemy been quite effectual in removing the true KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST from the world. He has been nearly as successful in doing so in the 'Church.' Just as he has blinded the world from the riches of Christ's grace, so he has veiled the eyes of most Christian churchgoers from the Good News of the Mystery of Christ, the Full Gospel, and left them with merely a paltry mental apprehension of Christ's Provision and the 'dead letter' of His Word.

THEN AND Now. God's wayward people of the O.T. were smitten with spiritual blindness, as well:

"But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the Old Testament, which veil is done away in Christ. But even unto this day. when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart. Nevertheless, when it shall turn to the Lord (be fully converted as per Deut. 30), the veil shall be taken away." (II Cor. 3:14-16.)

It is quite evident that that same veil blinds the minds and hearts of most of God's people today in their reading and understanding of the N.T. and the full Gospel message, preventing them from partaking of most of its marvellous benefits.

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CORRUPTING THEIR MINDS FROM THE SIMPLICITY THAT IS IN CHRIST. The Enemy's deceptions are rampant and legion today. As he has done with the world, so he does with the Church. He hurls so many different things at her on such a variety of planes that little time is permitted to meaningfully seek the Lord for His light and guidance on matters of crucial spiritual importance, or even to search out the appropriate illuminating Scriptures. Due to a variety of well-orchestrated situations — the nature of "every wind of doctrine," the crises and problems that arise in the congregations and ministries, the needs of devastated people, opportunities for new areas of ministry and outreach, etc., etc., — decisions are made and courses of action are marked out according to human thinking, which nearly always 'miss the mark'. Thus the enemy lures his prey out of God's caring protection and into errors, snares, and destruction.

DISOBEDIENCE THE ROOT CAUSE OF SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS. Learning from the Israelites of the O.T., their condition, their courses of action, along with their consequences, will shed some light on parallels to those found among His N.T. people.

*"But when I speak with thee, I will open thy mouth, and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD: He that heareth, let him hear; and he that forbeareth, let him forbear: for they are a rebellious house."
(Ezek. 3:27.)*

*"Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see, and see not: they have ears to hear, and hear not: for they are a rebellious house."
(Ezek. 12:2.)*

*"And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people. And they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they show much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness. And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not."
(Ezek. 33:31-32.)*

*"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was."
(Jas. 1:22-24.)*

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Rebellion in the eyes of the Lord, then, includes the hearing of the Lord's word, but without following through in its applications of full obedience.

God's JUDGMENT ON HIS REBELLIOUS CHILDREN. Spiritually serious consequences are generated by the disobedience of His people and their hypocrisy. His protective barrier is removed, leaving the "hearers-of-the-Word-only" exposed to certain demonic assaults, among which are spiritual blindness, spiritual slumber, unbelief, spiritual death, and religiosity.

"For the LORD hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered. And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it is sealed: And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned. Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of man." (Isa. 29:10-13.)

"What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded (according as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day. And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumbling block, and a recompense unto them: Let their eyes be darkened that they may not see, and bow down their back always." (Rom. 11:7-10.)

Spiritual understanding is withheld:

"And Moses called unto all Israel, and said unto them, Ye have seen all that the LORD did before your eyes in the land of Egypt unto Pharaoh, and unto all his servants, and unto all his land; the great temptations which thine eyes have seen, the signs, and those great miracles: yet the LORD hath not given you an heart to perceive, and eyes to see, and ears to hear unto this." (Deut. 29:2-4.)

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Minimal tidbits of His anointed Word are given in sufficient amounts to give testimony to His claims on His people, but without an accompanying grace to effect the needed full transformation into the image of Christ. The result? More judgment:

"Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, this is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear. But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken." (Isa. 28:9-13.)

Not only was it the case during Isaiah's ministry, but for N.T. times as well, as the frequent repetition of Isaiah's commission in the N.T. Scriptures will bear out.

"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, here am I; send me. And he said, Go, and Tell this people, hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat and make their ears heavy and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed." (Isa. 6:8-10.)

(See also Mt. 13:13-15; Mk. 4:11-12; Jn. 12:39-40; Acts 28:25-27.)

NEUTRALIZING POTENTIAL WITNESSES THROUGH DECEPTION. Understandably, in keeping with his drive to remove the KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD from the face of the earth, the Adversary must undermine and paralyze Christ's witnesses. And this he does by beguiling them into sin and holding them by various deceptions while continuing to involve them in religious pursuits.

Chapter Seven

Pre-eminence of Christ

Walking Amidst The Golden Candlesticks Final

Many times he begins with defaming God's character, as he did with Eve in the garden, distorting the Gospel message, or misrepresenting its Principal Figure. Once the misconceptions have been accepted for consideration, it is then relatively easy to induce the deceived ones to disobedience.

"For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." (11 Cor. 11:2-3.)

"O foolish Galatians who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?" (Gal. 3:1.)

HISTORIANS, NOT EYEWITNESSES. Very few in ministry today have had a true REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST. They have not had an up-close encounter with Him, much less known Him face to face. Accepting His forgiveness, hearing His call, receiving His commissioning, having insights into the Scriptures, and ministering under His anointing are not to be confused with a REVELATION OF HIS PERSON and heart. Consequently, today's ministers are powerless to be channels through whom He can be revealed to those under their charge. Today, people's 'faith' is founded more on their leader's doctrinal expertise and eloquence than on Jesus Christ Himself revealed by the "power of God" through "the power and demonstration of the Holy Spirit."

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PROCLAIMING AND DEFENDING THE 'DEAD LETTER.' Because the disobedience of God's people has stifled the fuller REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST and of His Full Gospel by the Holy Spirit, the Church today has been left with the mere doctrinal descriptions of what the First Believers once experienced. It has the words, but not the realities, or even a revelatory understanding, of what they were meant to portray. Modern Christianity's Bible-based beliefs, teachings, and giftings are but the skeletal remains of the pulsating realities of the life that is available to His disciples who are truly "IN Christ Jesus" by virtue of His Fullness in them, once enjoyed by the Early Church. Mere words (even anointed at times), and not the realities they were meant to represent, are the essence of much of today's Christianity; many do not even recognize the difference between the two. The knowledge of the doctrine has been mistaken for possession of its reality and experience. Likewise, the mental endorsement of doctrines has replaced true living faith in the Word they portray.

POWERLESS TIDBITS — PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT. Employing a vast variety of diverse and sundry minimal-dosage biblical truths, the Modern Church has proven herself to be powerless in bringing her adherents into more than a trivial acquaintance of those realities portrayed doctrinally. So it happened with the O.T. 'Law and the Prophets,' which were only able to provide verbal and symbolic depictions of vibrant spiritual realities, but were unable to furnish their hearers with the means to access them, partake of them, or enjoy them. Most of today's preaching is nearly as powerless to transform its hearers and adherents as the ministry of the O.T. Law, its 'types and shadows', prophecies, and visions was in producing changed lives among the Israelites.

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FALSE ETERNAL HOPES. Even the 'salvation experience' is affected by the lack of understanding. Universally, the terminologies to receive Christ, and to know Christ are used inappropriately as synonyms for one's initial invocation of Christ into his heart (usually ineffectual because of the lack of genuine repentance and true faith); and for his fancied ongoing commitment to the Christian persuasion (because of his adherence to his altar-call 'decision,' the basic Christian doctrines, its behavioral requirements, and regular attendance of church meetings). In reality, very, very few have truly received Christ, or really know Jesus Christ in the true and full sense of the terms as used in the Scriptures. This delusion is due to not yet having thoroughly dealt with sin, or having appropriated the death of their Old Man in Christ, after which they would be empowered to "abide in Him." To their eternal detriment, knowing the Father and the Son, with the evidence expressed in John's First Epistle, is not the experience of most of Today's Christians, and very few display John's proofs of possessing true Eternal Life mentioned in his First Epistle!!

CHRISTIANITY'S GOLDEN CALF — FASHIONED AFTER THEIR OWN HEARTS. Not having had a true REVELATION OF THE LORD, originating in the Spirit of God, well-crafted simulations have been fashioned. Today's Christians have fashioned custom-made, Bible-based, MENTAL REPRESENTATIONS of the Godhead according to their own preferential concepts and doctrinal upbringing or orientation, accommodating their lusts and providing themselves with a relative 'peace of mind' therein. Their CONCEPTUAL IDOLATRY is partially based on Biblical descriptions of divine attributes, supplemented by modifications of their own innovation, in keeping with the standards they feel they can adhere to. Their carnal hearts have deluded them into thinking God is quite sympathetic and tolerant of their besetting weaknesses and sins. To their imaginary god (in reality a fallen angel of high rank) they project their prayers, knowing no real communion with Him that would hold them in its grip for hours at a time. They have deluded themselves into thinking that they know Him.

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They have substituted the theological and intuitive definitions of their reprobate human mind and that of their religious authorities for a true experiential KNOWLEDGE and REVELATION OF THE GODHEAD. The 'God,' the 'Christ,' and the 'Holy Spirit' that many serve today are not the members of the Godhead they imagine them to be, but Master Impostors. They serve an invisible, abstract, spiritual 'Golden Calf — a 'Father,' a 'Saviour,' and a 'Holy Spirit' fashioned in their own likeness, to whom they ascribe the names of the Godhead. Theirs is not an Idolatry of statues or icons. It is an Idolatry of mental images or concepts to which they ascribe the names of Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit, when, in fact, they are not; much as a painting (an icon) or a statue is a representation of the idolater's object of worship. (The Golden calf, whom the Israelites named Jehovah, back in Egypt represented Molech!! Acts 7: 38-43a; Amos 5:25-26.) One's idea of who God is has supplanted the place of God Himself!! A subtle but crucial distinction!!

Behind many of the Conceptual Idols and Evangelical Icons are deceiving demonic entities receiving the misdirected prayers and worship; selectively giving blessings and answers to prayer; inspiring false giftings; personifying the Godhead; and deceiving unwary multitudes who are made vulnerable by their lack of a true Biblical Covenant-Commitment to Jesus Christ (according to His stipulated terms), their selective belief systems, and their "lack of knowledge."

USING HYPE, HOOPLA, AND HYPERBOLE TO PUSH SECONDARY ISSUES. The ministers preach and promote to the public what is immediately beneficial and meaningful to them, including Christ's power to heal the body, fix bad circumstances, bless finances, enable for success, heal emotional wounds, answer prayer, give joy and peace, baptize with tongues, and even forgive sins— anything and everything except a growing KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST HIMSELF. Doctrinal 'winds' come and go, promising to provide the missing ingredient of a fully working Christianity, if properly and diligently pursued. Some of the more recent ones include:

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Divine order and N.T. church government, networking and city-wide churches, submission and 'coverings', national conferences and local lock-ins, prophetic input and apostolic office, 5-fold ministry and manifest sons of God, new superstar ministries with a 'fresh' Word and old superstars repackaged, body-ministry and Holy Spirit giftings, spiritual warfare and intercession, Christian psychology and healing of the memories, worship teams and choreographed dancing, liturgy and vestments, super faith and kingdom dominion, prosperity and health, evangelism and outreach ministries, membership classes and ministry training courses, programs and fund-raising, home discipleship groups and church growth principles, missions support and missionary outreach, cutting-edge doctrines and revelation knowledge, types-&-shadows and end-time truth, Institutionalization and business management principles, political activism and anti-abortion campaigns, the 'revival' of laughter, ad infinitum.

DECEIVED INTO FIGHTING THE WRONG BATTLES WITH THE WRONG WEAPONS. In today's Christianity there are so many different pressing issues to deal with. Yesterday had its own issues; tomorrow will bring us entirely new ones. These are thrust on the Church by the Enemy and seem to require a response, a 'biblically correct' response. Before long a ministry develops dealing with the issue and the people affected by the matter; or a policy is established; or a doctrinal position on the matter is redefined or 'clarified' in light of today's realities, perhaps non-existent yesterday. The cause is then taken up by God's people, led by well-meaning activists.

Some of these causes are then galvanized into political movements, seeking to set things right. Wielding 'fleshly arms' of protest, resistance, political elections, legislation, and arbitration, they crusade for governmental justice and social morality. However, they are ineffectual in stemming Sin's cumulative momentum within society and the decadence it spreads among its prey. Nor can they restrain the aggressive and persistent efforts of Esoteric Occultism to further Satan's designs, the presence and work of Hell's Hordes throughout society, or the ubiquitous New Age and One-World conspirators.

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The Church's earthly weapons are neither mighty against the Enemy's strongholds, nor effective in stemming the tide of decadence. For a while it may seem that the forces of 'Right' will prevail, but ultimately, those involved in the cause find that they have been labouring in vain, fighting a losing battle. Years go by before the battle is lost, the Church gives up (on that issue), and the Enemy prevails. (Not to worry, however. Another cause will soon thrust itself upon the Church, into which the Church can again throw herself.)

QUAGMIRE WARFARE. She engages in the cause of the hour,' ignoring that a number of Yesterday's battles for social/spiritual causes were lost and forgotten; that those battles served to divert the Church's attention from Christ and His Heavenly strategies; and that they depleted her strength, spiritual vitality, and financial reserves. Yesterday one of the causes was temperance; today some of them are abortion, public prayer, Christian's rights, the nation of Israel, etc. They are never satisfactorily resolved, changing from era to era and generation to generation. What will tomorrow's burning issues be?

Just as the Tempter sought to undermine Christ's total allegiance to and dependency on the Father by employing the Scriptures after His 40-day fast, so he attempts to mislead God's people today (and succeeds) by astute misusages of Holy Writ!!

Fighting the Enemy's wars with the earthly, institutional weapons of politics, fundraising, and media blitzes will never defeat him. It will only weary and exasperate God's people until no strength is left. These wars drain off the Church's financial assets, good leaders, committed people, and considerable energies.

TAKING CHRIST OUT OF THE Church's LEADERSHIP. The Church has long forgotten to put on "the whole armour of God," to "pray always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watch thereunto with all perseverance and supplication" (Eph. 6:18), and to wait on Him with the local church to "hear what the Spirit saith to the churches" on the matter. Rather, eloquent, persuasive, charismatic personalities are readily followed in their efforts to galvanize the Church into the course of action most obvious to human reasoning. In so doing, the Enemy outwits God's people at every turn.

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Sadly, it is the Enemy who is manipulating the Church, setting much of her agenda through his initiatives designed to require countermeasures to offset them. It is not the Head, Jesus Christ, who is leading His people step by step.

The attention has been taken off of Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, and placed on secondary issues, human leaders, or traditions. He is seldom seen or heard. His heart and will are not discerned or followed. He has few witnesses that might be used to reestablish His testimony in the earth and bring Him again into prominence.

DEAF GOATS — THOSE WHO ARE NOT HIS SHEEP CANNOT HEAR HIS VOICE. When He is disregarded and disobeyed over a protracted period, having made numerous efforts to alert His people to their stiff-necked resistance, no grounds remain for them to be considered as ongoing beneficiaries of His Blood Covenant. In effect, the Lord does not regard as His people those who persist in rebellion to His Word, His Spirit, and His Will.

They retain no ability to even hear or discern His Word to their hearts. He cannot bless them with spiritual wisdom and understanding. One consequence of their apostate condition is that no recourse remains but to turn them over to the religious devices of their own deluded natural minds, and give them over to deceiving spirits.

"To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." (Jn. 10: 3-4, 27.)

"He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God." (Jn. 8:47.)

"We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us: he that is not of God heareth, not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth and the spirit of error." (1 John 4:6.)

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"Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets: She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words, saying, How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scourers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge? Turn away reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you. Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand and no man regarded; But ye have set at nought all Lay counsel and would none d my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them." (Pr. 1:20-32.)

DISQUALIFIED TO BE HIS WITNESSES. By their refusal to comply with the basics of His Gospel's claims on their lives, most Christians forfeit the further blessings that come by a developing sense of spiritual hearing. The inability of the Christian world to receive the Holy Spirit's revelation shuts them out of the 'Promised Land' of LIFE IN Christ's FULLNESS. Thereby, they consign themselves to sojourn endlessly around the MT. SINAI of RELIGIOSITY in their spiritual wilderness where their carnality will eventually slay them.

Generally speaking, the Lord Jesus Christ will not be represented by the disobedient. They are not qualified to be His representatives and ambassadors in the proclamation of His highest purposes; nor will they be used by Him to guide others into that which they themselves will not enter.

The REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST, then, cannot be readily given to most Christians, leaving Him without an anointed vanguard of witnesses of the caliber of the Early Church and her apostolic leaders.

The shortage of 'witnesses unto Christ', then is due to a pervasive disobedience of 'Christians' who have been deluded into believing that it is enough just to 'believe.'

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THE ADVERSARY'S BOTTOM LINE. Through his persistent strategies against Christians throughout the world over the decades and centuries, the Enemy has removed the KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD from the Church, and consequently, from the world.

WHAT HOPE IS THERE? Though the Church World has been effectively neutralized from ever being made a likely instrument for the unveiling of Christ's glory in the earth, among its ranks exist some glimmers of hope. They are found among that minimal percentage of true, sincere, faithful, holy, believing, praying, followers of Christ, whose allegiance and passion are primarily to Him. They are found inside and outside of many church bodies and are known to Him as His Remnant. As long as His Remnant remains faithful to Him, and averts succumbing to Religiosity's pressures, there is always the possibility that prevailing intercessions made on their behalf will enable them to take the steps needed to come into Christ's full provision for them, subsequently joining mighty intercessory armies focused on Christ's purposes on the earth.

Throughout the world, outside of the Church Systems, many isolated individuals and small clustering's of people can be found who have "dropped out," no longer able to tolerate the many compromises found in most church bodies. Among the isolated "dropouts" are some who are not merely reactionaries against the wrongs of the Christian Religiosity they have come out of, but they have a heart and a passion for the person of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

IT IS IN HIS NON-CONFORMIST REMNANT! Herein lies the greatest hope of the hour. Once these dissenting Remnant elements understand that the key to the unveiling of Christ's glory in the earth is found in an engaged faith in His "exceeding great and precious promises" and in travailing, prevailing prayer for those promises to be birthed, the time is at hand for Christ's Pre-eminence in the earth to begin to be brought forth.

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"FUTURE PIONEERING WITNESSES UNTO HIM." Some Remnant elements found among Religiosity's ranks, along with some of those found "outside the camp, bearing His reproach," may well constitute the initial instruments through whom the KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD will again be extended throughout the earth. To their number, some who had been rejected by Christianity's ranks, others who had left in disillusionment and despair, and many previously unchurched people, now touched by the Lord, will be added by the sovereign workings of God's Spirit in conjunction with the saints' intercessions.

"There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life. But many that are first shall be last; and the last first." (Mk. 10:29b-31.)

Their pattern will be taken from that of their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; for He was a "faithful witness" unto the Father during His three and a half years of earthly ministry.

Jesus' Life & Ministry as a "Witness" of the Father

The Pattern Jesus' "Witnesses" are to Follow

THE PATTERN WITNESS. Among other things that our Lord Jesus Christ did on behalf of the Father, He bore witness of Him faithfully to His disciples, to Israel, and to the world (for the Jews were of the world); for in John's Revelation He bears the title for having done so. Jesus revealed the nature, heart, Word, and will of the Father in innumerable situations during the three and a half years of His public ministry that began with His baptism, at which time He received the Holy Spirit's anointing.

"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth." "These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God." (Rev. 1:5a; 3:14b.)

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SOME SECRETS. What were some of the elements in Christ's life and ministry that contributed to His being a "faithful and true witness?"

1.) Knowing He had a mission to fulfill, He would not operate on His own initiative. He waited 30 years for the Father's full commissioning and anointing, and then always remained His servant.

"For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me." (Jn. 6:38.)

"Then cried Jesus in the temple as he taught, saying, Ye both know me, and ye know whence I am: and I am not come of myself, but he that sent me is true, whom ye know not. But I know him: for I am from him, and he hath sent me." Jesus said unto them, if God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me." (in. 7:28-29; 8:42.)

"...Which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." (Phil. 2:5b-8.)

2.) He would only act and speak as directly guided by the Father to do so; He never did anything independently, on His own initiative.

"Then answered Jesus and said unto them, 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 showeth him all things that himself doeth: and he will show him greater works than these, that ye may marvel. I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me." (Jn. 5: 19-20, 30.)

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"For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak." (Jn. 12: 49-50.)

3.) Though He utterly subjected Himself to do only the will of the Father, He did not do so begrudgingly while inwardly preferring things of His own predilection; rather, instead He was consumed with the Father's purposes.

"And his disciples remembered that it was written, the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up." (Jn. 2:17.)

4.) THE KEY. Perhaps the greatest secret of Christ's being such a yielded vessel to the Father and to the entirety of His will was His abiding in the union (or oneness) effected between the Father and Himself when He was anointed with the Holy Spirit at the Jordan River. Jesus had offered His utterly surrendered life to fully execute the Father's will, relinquishing all claims to any of His 'rights' and desires, etc. It was His continual yieldedness to the Father in Him, and His oneness with the Father through the Spirit's Fullness, that was the ultimate means by which He was a "faithful witness" to the Father! He did not articulate very much regarding the Father's Person, though He did make a number of references to Him from time to time. What He did do, however, was to live so yielded to the Father that sufficient revelation of the Father would be given to His disciples just by merely knowing and living with Jesus!

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. If ye had known me, He should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet has thou not known me, Philip? that hath seen me hath seen the Father: and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me he doeth the works." (Jn. 14: 6-10.)

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Christ's being a "faithful and true witness" to the Father revolved around the reality of "the Father being in Him, and He in the Father!" Through the Spirit's filling Christ had been so replete with the Father, that it was the Father living in Him and doing everything through Him; and conversely, Christ was continually immersed in the Father!

AN EXTRAORDINARY PLEDGE. Perhaps even more remarkable than the revelation of the secret of the nature of Christ's new kind of Life He was exhibiting before His disciples, was His Promise to make them participants of the same! He was extending to them an offer to bring them into the same quality of divine, supernatural life that He was living in union with the Father through the Spirit's Fullness. It is a Promise which is conditional on obedience and love, encompassing much more than a Pentecostal/Charismatic "baptism of tongues:"

"If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever, even the Spirit of truth. I will not leave you comfortless:

I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye (shall) see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

AT THAT DAY ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, And we will come unto him, and make our abode with, and in, him." (Jn. 14:15-17a, 18. 20-21, 23.)

Then, prior to His arrest, trial, and crucifixion, He prayed for their full, true Baptism in the Spirit (and for ours, also): "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one. even as we are one: I in them and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. That the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them." (in. 17:21-23, 26b.)

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With the words "AT THAT DAY ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you"- referring to the day and the result of the Outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the "Upper Room 120" - an incomprehensibly bountiful Promise was given to Christ's true followers. Not only would they be filled with the Spirit and speak in tongues (such a major issue for Pentecostals and Charismatics), but they would experientially know the same oneness that Jesus and the Father enjoyed. Through the true, full, complete baptism of the Holy Spirit they would be brought into the same quality of life and relationship in Jesus that He had enjoyed with the Father.

The Means to Restore Christ's Pre-eminence in the Earth Today

THE RESTORATION OF Christ's PREEMINENCE. Herein lies the means to see the Pre-eminence of Christ restored in the earth today:

When we have truly laid our life down, putting it on His altar to be sanctified and purified from the fleshly carnal nature. When we have believed and appropriated His "exceeding great and precious promises" regarding His deliverance from our corrupt, adamic nature. When the Holy Spirit comes in His Fullness and truly baptizes us (according to John 14)... When Jesus Christ comes in His fullness, making us one with Him...

- Then Jesus Christ will be revealed to us in ways we cannot imagine, thoroughly transforming us. We will be endued with "power from on high" to make Him known to many. It will come through the Holy Spirit's true baptism, given in conjunction with Christ's coming to fill and take full control and possession of our lives individually.

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THE INITIATIVE BELONGS TO US. For the glory of His Pre-eminence to burst forth from our lives into the world of darkness all around us, we must, of course, put off all of our personal and hidden darkness - no quick and easy, superficial task. Calling upon Him to expose the deceitfulness of our hearts and minds, we must do what we can to offer Him a detailed, diligent, thorough, and permanent repentance, turning from all things in our lives contrary to His Word, His dealings and our conscience. We cannot give Him His rightfully due pre-eminence in our lives until we do so. Anything less is hypocrisy. In the process, we will find ourselves needing to beseech Him for His enabling grace and mercy "to will and to do of His good pleasure," for if it were left strictly up to our efforts, we could never comply. Once we have put our sins away, the cause of our spiritual blindness and deafness will be removed, preparing us for the REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST the Holy Spirit will bring us.

We must learn what it is to diligently seek Him with all of our heart until He "be found of us," revealing Himself to us and filling us with such an overabundance of Himself that we can contain no more. In other words, we must first make Him pre-eminent in our own lives to the utmost of our insignificant ability; then He will come to the humble altar we have set up for Him in our heart and will establish His DWELLING there in the fullness of His Radiant Glory which will shine forth into the thick darkness that pervades the world around us.

Chapter Eight

The Power of God

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts. - (11 Pet. 1:19.)

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is. and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (Heb. 11:6.)

"Then shall day light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy reward... Then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noon day." (Isa. 58:8, 10b.)

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EXPONENTIAL EXALTATION. Though a far-reaching REVELATION OF Christ's PREEMINENCE can come to multitudes of people in a geographic region through an individual here or there that sets his face to seek Him until He comes in 'Revival' power, there is no comparison with the exceeding greatness of His glory and power that will be revealed through a unified band of believers, who in one accord of heart, conviction, purpose, and methodology, covenant to seek His face together until "He rend the heavens and come down" to make of them His Temple and DWELLING PLACE. His original design has always been that of DWELLING in the midst of corporate groupings of His people. The greater the number of people that come together truly in "one accord" to seek Him, His kingdom, and His righteousness above all else, making Him pre-eminent in their lives, the greater will be the Holy Spirit's work through them to establish Christ's Pre-eminence in their geographic region. The more elements that comprise the Plural Container of His awesome, manifest Presence, the greater the manifestation and REVELATION OF HIMSELF in their midst and through their instrumentality.

"Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire. and like fullers' soap." (Mal. 3:1-2.)

"Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings? He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes. that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil; He shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him: his waters shall be sure. Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off." (Isa. 33:14b-17.)

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When Christ comes in His manifest presence to the core group of seekers, filling them and making them individually and corporately "one with him," as promised in John 14 — He raises them up as those "witnesses unto himself" He had promised and prophesied in Acts 1 that would make Him known "unto the ends of the earth." Through that caliber of "witnesses unto him" — now endued with a deep, inward, continually emanating REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST, a significant anointing of the Holy Spirit, and under the leadership of the Head of the Body — major thrusts will be put forth in the earth towards restoring Christ's Pre-eminence in the earth today.

"And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.- (Acts 1:4-5, 8.)

"And Jesus came and spake unto them. saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always. even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Mat. 28:18- 20.)

"Sing and rejoice. O daughter of Zion: for, In, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee. saith the LORD. And many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people: and I will dwell in the midst of thee, and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto thee." (Zech. 2:10-11.)

The Roles of the Holy Spirit in Promoting the Pre-eminence a Jesus Christ

THE INDISPENSABLE HOLY SPIRIT. The REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST to His people and to the world cannot be imparted without the active participation of the Holy Spirit. The Pre-eminence of Christ cannot be established either among His people, or in the world, without giving the Holy Spirit His due liberty and obedience, as He brings to bear the claims of God's Word and of the binding obligations that Christ's New Covenant holds us to. It is the Spirit's role to reveal Christ to the individual and to His people.

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Where He is given His rightful place, the Holy Spirit exalts Christ and takes the things of Christ and makes them known and understandable to us. The Holy Spirit convicts of sin present in our lives individually and in the corporate meetings, through His gifts and through His anointing on the unadulterated preached Word. He calls to repentance, pointing out the sins present, the worldliness in our hearts, the carnality and fleshliness of our thinking, values, and actions. He reveals disciplinary judgments the Lord may bring if we are not repentant. He faithfully calls us to be Christ-centred, paying the price of self-denial and sacrifice required of each one. He beckons us and draws us to the 'closet of secret prayer' for daily and extended seasons of communion and intercession, desiring to make us participants in the coming of Christ's kingdom. He deals with us in the midst of difficult and adverse circumstances, to become established in an unwavering faith. He alerts us to the Enemy's incoming occult attacks, as well as to dangers in practical settings. He shows things that will shortly come to pass that will directly affect the local, regional, and national church bodies.

The Holy Spirit's role is to so thoroughly deal with the hindrances in the saints' lives and to so reveal Jesus Christ to them that they are constantly being transformed into the likeness of Christ.

"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory. even as by the Spirit of the Lord.- (II Cor. 3:18.)

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover, whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified." (Rom. 8:29-30.)

AVOIDING EXCESS ATTENTION. In fulfilling His multi-faceted, Christ-exalting ministries, it is always the purpose of the Holy Spirit to never draw any exalted recognition to Himself, or to magnify Himself. It is never His intention that He should be honored as the focus of attention, contrary to what is done in church and ministry settings seemingly everywhere in 'Spirit-filled' circles — in prayers offered, in songs and choruses sung, in giving undue prominence to His gifts, or in the Dove symbolisms and logos employed.

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Generally speaking, when God's people give disproportionate attention to the more 'positive' blessing aspects of the workings of the Holy Spirit, they never allow the Spirit to either bring the much-needed and undervalued Conviction of Sin into their midst, nor any of His REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST to those bodies of believers. Consequently, those church bodies and ministries, considering themselves to be rich in the "things of the Spirit," are spiritually poverty-stricken, devoid of the treasures that are hidden in Jesus Christ!

EQUIPPING "WITNESSES UNTO CHRIST." Among His ministries is that of equipping us to make Jesus Christ known to the world. To the degree we cooperate with the Holy Spirit, allowing Him to prepare us for further and deepening REVELATIONS OF THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST, to that same degree do we become "witnesses unto Him," spreading the KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD abroad, and participating in extending the Pre-eminence of Christ in our corner of the world.

That Christ May Again Have the Pre-eminence in the Earth:

Our Call to be "Witnesses Unto Him"

ADDRESSING THE PRINCIPLE HINDRANCES. What must take place among His people to give Christ the pre-eminence He is due in our lives, must also take place in the world at large, if the KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD is to break forth on every hand. First we had to deal with the causes of our spiritual blindness and deafness (i.e. the sins of our heart), putting them off in a detailed and thorough manner; then Christ's Lordship would be enthroned. Likewise, before the REVELATION OF HIS SUPREMACY can go forth into the world through us, the sins of the hearers of the Gospel must first be addressed and thoroughly dealt with. The precursor to the REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST breaking forth in communities is the preaching of God's holy law and standards, and of judgment to come, under the Spirit's power. (Remember John the Baptist's ministry?) It will bring a mighty Conviction of Sin upon the peoples, and their repentance. Once the sinners' sins are repented of and put away, the Holy Spirit can bring a transforming REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST, causing the KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD to spread forth increasingly to the populace of the surrounding geographic areas.

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"And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." (Lk. 24:47-49.)

The call to "put off the 'Old Man'" is a message that also must be a prominent priority in our preaching today, as it was in the Early Church, if we are going to see a harvest of victorious believers that will abide in Christ's fullness and know His pre-eminence in their lives.

"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ, were baptized into his death? (1 Corinthians 12:13) Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. 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. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness." (Rom. 6:3-14,18.)

Walking Amidst The Golden Candlesticks Final

"In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the FAITH of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world If ye then be risen with Christ. seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead. and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth ..."
(Col. 2:1 1-12, 20a: 3:1-5a.)

WITH A VIEW TO HIS GRAND DESIGN. Only by these means (a thorough repentance, His sanctification/cleansing of our defiled fleshly nature, and the true, complete baptism of the Holy Spirit) can the newly harvested lives hope to enter the narrow gate of the MYSTERY OF CHRIST.

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"Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God: Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in us (plural), the hope of glory: whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily. For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh; That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgment of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words. For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ. As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him: Rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: in whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ." (Col. 1:25-29; 2:1-11.)

For indeed, not only will there be extensive harvests of souls for Christ's kingdom, but Christ's ultimate designs for His saints and His Church will find fulfillment before this Age comes to a close.

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." (Eph. 4:11-13.)

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"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thin; but that it should be holy and without blemish." (Eph. 5:25-27.)

THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT. These Jesus-filled believers eventually will be challenging `head-on' all counter-beliefs, including the worship of the Dragon and the Beast, much as the two witnesses will do in Jerusalem in Rev. 11. The KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD will be promulgated throughout the earth through His "sold-out," "Jesus-filled" Body and servants, and through no other means. They will be making Christ known to multitudes and nations around the world, that they may have ample understanding before making their final choices of eternal consequence.

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations (in the fullness of His truth and the REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST, and under a manifest anointing of the Holy Spirit, and then shall the end come." (Mt. 24:14.)

"But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee to this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things which I will appear unto thee; Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me." (Acts 26:16-18.)

His people will demythologize and debunk Satan and his servants to those who have a heart to hear. Sufficient damage will be done to "bring down" both Mystery Babylon and the City of Babylon, bringing an end to Satan's perpetual reign over this earth.

All the while, the 10 kings, their Anti-Christ, and the Beast will be exerting extensive efforts to eradicate the KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST from off the face of the earth while putting forth their claims and obligating the world's populace to choose the Beast and the Dragon.

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WORLD-WIDE GLORY. After turning the world over to the Anti-Christ's reign for a short period of judgment on its self-willed inhabitants for having rejected Christ and His glorious Gospel, Jesus Christ and His saints put a final end to the reign of the Prince of the Power of the Air. At that time, Christ's Pre-eminence on the earth will be as extensive as "the waters that cover the sea!"

Recruitment for "Witnesses Unto Him"

WILL YOU MAKE CHRIST PREEMINENT IN YOUR LIFE? Considering the Enemy's effective strategies to remove the KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD from the face of the earth, from the local church bodies of Jesus Christ, and even from most of our 'personal relationships' with the Lord, it may be that some of Christ's redeemed are sensing His call to lay their life before Him on His altar, offering themselves to become a "witness unto Him," in all that such a pilgrimage and responsibility would entail.

This is a day when the Holy Spirit is recruiting "witnesses," inducting them into His school of training and of the unveiling of Jesus Christ in their lives.

May we renounce our attachments to this world and its "things," holding only Christ dear in our hearts. May our passion be Him, our Lord Jesus Christ, as it was with the apostle Paul!

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"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but losses the excellency (the knowledge of Christ Jesus Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, 1.114 I may win Christ, and be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: that I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in anything ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you." (Phil. 3:7-15.

May we seek to be empowered by the Holy Spirit to be those "witnesses unto Christ" that will make Him known and pre-eminent to the ends of the earth. Though there be many, few, or none that we are aware of, that are responding to His call to undergo all the necessary preparations to become "witnesses unto Him," may WE heed that call, and persevere therein until His glory falls on our lives and we become that "sweet savor of Christ:"

"Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved. And in them that perish: To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?" (II Cor. 2:14-16.)

In the meantime, may we seek and pray for ourselves and our fellow-believers, as Paul did for the Ephesians:

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"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 us-ward 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 above 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 fulness of him that filleth all in all." (Eph. 1:15-23.)

In answer to our prayers, one day before too long, we will know Paul's glorious enablement to make Jesus Christ known to others:

"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 determined not to know anything 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 I 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." (1 Cor. 2:1-5.)

Summary

The revelation of Jesus Christ walking amidst the seven golden candlesticks has taken us to reveal the ministry of the Spirit to correct, direct, and guide us to spiritual realities. What has happened is the Babylonian spirit of religiosity, division, and a host of other things has crept into His candlesticks.

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We must see the condition we find the church and our own hearts, seeking to be the solution by dedicating ourselves to what is before us. We need to awaken ourselves, repenting of everything that the Holy Spirit sheds His light into our hearts. We need a true anointing and cleansing to take place in preparation for His impartation to be realized. God's people are asleep spiritually, comfortable and carnal. Christ is not pre-eminent, first in everything. The role of pastor is prominent in the gatherings instead of Christ directing every member without any human agency. The body is to edify itself through the effectual working in the measure of every part, making increase of the body to the edifying of itself in love. We each are to hear Him and be taught by HIM as the truth is in Jesus. Ephesians 4:16,21

Micah, in Judges 17, with his house of gods and his own priest, is a picture of religiosity everywhere. Idolatry, religious spirits in the church and in the heart, God will not put up with. The enemy is at work to rob, kill and destroy. We as His people need to thoroughly return in true repentance and faith to seek Him again till He comes, bringing His refreshing and awesome presence.

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WALKING AMIDST THE GOLDEN CANDLESTICKS

Timothy Germain critiques modern Christendom, arguing that Christendom have led to spiritual captivity, suppressing true biblical faith and body life ministry. He exposes the influence of Babylonian and Roman systems, which have corrupted the church through false doctrines, commercialization, and hierarchical control, notably rejecting the pre-eminence of Christ where He is central to Christ's Ekklesia .

(1 Corinthians 14:26).

The book calls for a return to genuine discipleship, urging to follow apostolic teaching. (Acts 2:42) rejecting institutionalized religion. He advocates home gatherings where the Spirit has liberty, and each are encouraged to fulfill their function as members the body of Christ. Come LORD JESUS. Amen