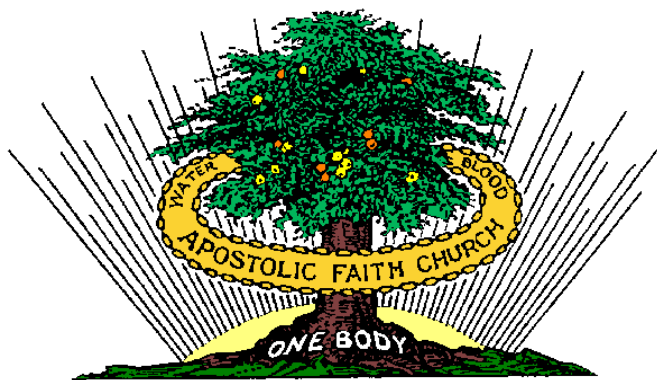


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Showers of Blessing

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Walk In The Light

The one thing of vital importance to all mankind is that they should be saved; saved from sin which brings death in its wake. Yet in spite of this, preaching the message of the Cross appears foolish to those who believe not; but to those that believe, it is the power of God unto salvation.

The Word, whether spoken or written, when received with faith will quicken the understanding of the hearer or reader. The stronger the power of faith to draw the Word, the more deeply the message is grasped. As it enters into the heart, the spirit, mind and body are nourished, for "the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life", so that even the mortal body is quickened: it is a two-way process. "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple". So wrote the Psalmist, and added: "I opened my mouth, and panted: for I longed for thy commandments" (Psalm 119:130,131). The more we draw the Word forth, the deeper the Word ministered becomes.

Jesus taught that we must develop the disposition of a small child if we wish to enter into the heavenly places of His Kingdom; and this we are able to do even now. Peter rejoiced that God "...hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness.....whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth" (2 Peter 1:4-12).

The Apostle explains that this is the proper way to enter into the Everlasting Kingdom, and that if we neglect the virtues he mentions, we become short-sighted and blind; even though we may have in the past received revelatory knowledge of the new truth of how He appears a second time unto salvation. We know that the race of mankind is in a fallen state from birth, and by inheritance possess a corrupted nature, which condemns them to death; and that while yet living, are reckoned as being dead in the sight of God. Man, cut off from a spiritual life of walking with God, is unaware of his lost inheritance.

Christians everywhere are all too painfully aware that those who are much engrossed with the spirit of this world spurn the good news of salvation, won for us by the dying of Jesus upon the Cross of Calvary for our sin, regarding it as so much foolishness. What is not necessarily realised though is that those who do know the Lord as their Saviour, may themselves also

reject much of the teaching of Scripture, and count it as foolishness. The acceptance of further revelation from God generally makes but slow progress among the many denominations, who do not like to be disturbed from their settled ways.

The preaching of the truth, that the Lord has already returned unto Zion and is making His presence felt among the nations, and is manifest through the shouting of the people, clamouring for their long-withheld rights; is received with incredulity. The Greek word for "shout" used in the Scripture, carries with it the meaning just described "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first."

The statements made in Scripture, that the day of the Lord comes with clouds and thick darkness with terrible storms, during which time Michael stands up for God's people, and the world enters a period of trouble such as never was since there was a nation, during the latter part of which all those written in the book shall be delivered: goes largely unrecognised or ignored in Christian circles. Reference to this can be found in Daniel 12:1, Zephaniah 1:14-18, Joel 2:1-11, 28-32, Isaiah 2:10-22, Revelation 19:11-21; and there are also many others.

Many Christians are thoroughly drenched in a literal interpretation of the Scriptures, which are actually symbols given as to the manner of the Lord's return. If taken literally, they contradict one another: yet most students are unable to understand a spiritual interpretation, which is the only way all the Scriptures relating to the subject can be found to perfectly harmonize with each other; and that without any wresting them from their context.

A rule in Bible interpretation is that even if one Scripture on any given subject is found to contradict, then that interpretation must be at fault.

Those Christians who cannot believe the spiritual interpretation of the Lord's return being in the form of the Word of God coming again, manifest in the flesh of members of His Body, caught up to God and His throne, i.e. the place of authority, find this interpretation foolish in the extreme. To those that believe, however, it is nothing less than the power of God coming forth for the salvation of the nations. Ultimately, the nations are to bring their glory and honour into the New Jerusalem, that is, the spiritually structured government which is by nature above the literal Jerusalem; for it is not made with hands.

With what great difficulty did Paul labour and reason with what was then profound revelation, striving to lift the converted Jew and Gentile alike, away from looking unto the natural Temple and the natural Jerusalem, and instead, bring them to the realisation that the promises made to Israel's seed were to be fulfilled in a spiritual Temple, yet to be formed all over the world.

So likewise, the City of God - the New Jerusalem - comes down to reign through the Word in its new and quickening power, which will stir all His saints with its might; breaking all the kingdom of darkness, and bringing in the kingdom of light.

Article by the late Pastor R. Pain, first published in Showers no. 3975, 1/7/93.

