
CHURCH OF THE
E T E R N A L

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all the nations; and then shall the end come." – Matthew 24:14

May 10, 2012

Dear Members, Co-Workers and Friends:

The problems in the world are escalating, and the only real solution is the return of Jesus Christ and the establishment of the kingdom of God, when the saints will rule with and under Christ on the earth. Our current focus in the Church must be to preach the gospel of the coming kingdom as a witness and to prepare individually for that future event.

In reality, there is nothing more important!

We will be celebrating the Feast of Pentecost in a few short weeks. This Feast played an important role in the lives of Christ's followers, and it is also extremely significant for our lives and for our immediate future. It pictures the beginning of the New Testament Church of God, as outlined in Acts 2:1-23:

"When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, 'Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.'

"So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'Whatever could this mean?' Others mocking said, 'They are full of new wine.' But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, 'Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

""AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS IN THE LAST DAYS, SAYS GOD, THAT I WILL POUR OUT OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL FLESH; YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS. AND ON MY MENSERVANTS AND ON MY MAIDSERVANTS I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT IN THOSE DAYS; AND THEY SHALL PROPHECY. I WILL SHOW WONDERS IN HEAVEN ABOVE AND SIGNS IN THE EARTH BENEATH: BLOOD AND FIRE AND VAPOR OF SMOKE. THE SUN SHALL BE TURNED INTO DARKNESS, AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD, BEFORE THE COMING OF THE GREAT AND AWESOME DAY OF THE LORD. AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS THAT WHOEVER CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED.""

The Feast of Pentecost symbolizes for us, in a way, our individual day of baptism when we had

hands laid on us and when we received God's Holy Spirit, enabling us to develop a continued relationship with God by growing in Christ's grace and knowledge, and also energizing us to be engaged in helping to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom to a sick and dying world.

There is a saying that blood is thicker than water, which by implication looks to the bond between blood brothers which is mostly stronger than the bond between friends. However, true Christians experience an even stronger bond. We are bonded by God's Holy Spirit which is much more powerful than human blood. For human beings, our life is in the blood. In addition, the real life for Christians is in and through the Spirit. We all share a bond of blood with our human father, and as the "called out ones," we also share a bond, through the life-giving Spirit, with our heavenly Father. As humans we will die, but with God's Spirit in us, we will live forever, even after we die and have been resurrected.

However, God's gift of eternal life comes with a cost. That cost involves enduring to the end, regardless of obstacles, trials and perhaps even martyrdom which we know is coming for some in the future, as Revelation 20:4 tells us: "And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years."

Potential martyrdom must not deter us from the task at hand. Rather, we should move forward with the zeal of the apostle Paul. Note his encouraging statement at the very end of his life, as he was looking for that crown, promised him by God. He told us in 2 Timothy 4:7-8: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing."

We should also take note of Christ's admonition in Revelation 3:11: "Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown." We are not to look back and return to what we have left behind, but we must all strive together to finish the Work. And we can do so, through the bond of the life-giving Spirit of God in us, which bonds us with the Father and the Son, as well as with one another. It has been said that the Church of God moves forward on its knees, implying that we are not to neglect the need to pray to God for strength and help, and to stay close to God.

Let us all, bonded in love, move forward together with zeal in the task given to us, while looking to our glorious reward that we shall receive if we remain faithful to the end.

In Christian love,



Rene Messier