



Let My Teaching Drop
As the
RAIN

Deuteronomy 32:2

*"Let my teaching drop as the rain, My speech distill as the dew,
As raindrops on the tender herb, And as showers on the grass."*

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This manual is a compilation of the notes from each teaching Session

REVIVAL MINISTRIES AUSTRALIA

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-------|
| Session 1 - Our God and Father [part one] | P3. |
| Session 2 - The mystery of Godliness | P8. |
| Session 3 – The Great Commission | P13. |
| Session 4 – Our God and Father [part two] | P17. |
| Session 5 – The Resurrection | P22. |
| Session 6 – Grace and Apostleship | P26. |
| Session 7 – The Revelation of God [part one] | P31. |
| Session 8 – Coming into the fullness of Christ | P36. |
| Session 10 – The revelation of God [part two] | P39. |
| Session 11 – Staying of Target | P43. |
| Session 12 – The Tabernacle of Testimony | P47. |
| Session 13 – The Way of Worship | P55. |
| Session 14 – Apostolic Company | P60. |
| Session 15 – Church in the House | P64. |
| Session 16 – The Fulfilment of the Feasts of Israel | P68. |
| Session 17 – Making Disciples | P74. |
| Session 18 – Feast of Tabernacles | P78. |
| Session 19 – Armed for War | P84. |
| Session 20 – Building the Church | P90. |
| Session 21 – Sonship | P94. |
| Session 22 – Tithing | P99. |
| Session 23 – Babylon is Fallen | P106. |
| Session 24 – Perilous Times | P110. |
| Session 25 – Ministry of Prophet in New Testament | P115. |
| Session 26 – The Heart of a Martyr | P122. |
| Session 27 – If you Continue | P126. |

Our God and Father

"The Spirit of adoption"

- ❖ not to do with the modern idea of adoption
- ❖ not giving up a child to be taken up into another family
- ❖ Gk "huiothesia" = placement of the son (not the adoption of a baby)
- ❖ This is talking of when a child comes to the age of maturity, which in Bible was age of 30
- ❖ It was the taking of a young man into the placement of a mature son who could receive the inheritance

Jesus the example

- ❖ He was born as a baby, looked after by a mother
- ❖ At 12 years of age he went to Jerusalem Temple and was with the teachers and elders and was asking questions about God and giving learned answers – He was wanting to know more about His Father
- ❖ **Luke 2:49** – "I need to be about My Father's business"
- ❖ He was a lad growing into maturity
- ❖ Then we see Jesus at 30, age of maturity, the age of adoption, of receiving inheritance
- ❖ Jesus was baptised by John, then Father said, "This is My Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased"
- ❖ Now Jesus walked as God, as the Son of God

"Adoption" mentioned a few times in apostle Paul's writings

- ❖ this word and the reality it brings to us helps us understand God as our Father

Ephesians 1:5 – we are predestined to the adoption as sons, placed into the position of a mature son to the Father

- ❖ this is our predestination, to walk as mature sons to the Father
- ❖ we are no longer walking as servants, but serving as sons
- ❖ when you are a son, you are walking in a relationship where God shows you clearly what to do

Galatians 4:5

- ❖ Jesus redeemed us from the law that we might receive the adoption as sons
- ❖ Jesus died on the Cross so we could receive this adoption
- ❖ It is predestined but we have to receive it by believing in what Jesus did for us
- ❖ It is the Cross that makes us sons, this is central

Isaiah 9:6

- ❖ the Child born who would be the Son given would be called "Everlasting Father" or "Father of Eternity"

- ❖ In the Son is the Father
- ❖ Through Jesus we come to know our Father

2 Corinthians 6:16-18

- Our bodies individually and the body of Christ corporately is the "temple of the living God"

- God said "I will dwell among them..." (**Rev.21:3**)

v.17 – God will receive us when we come out of unclean things

v.18 – God says, "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD (Yahweh) Almighty"

- Coming to know our Father is not based on what we feel but based on the truth of the Word

- the Word makes us stable in our emotional life

2 Samuel 7:12

- David is going to "rest with the fathers" (dying in the body but being with those who have believed in the Spirit)

- God speaks to David of a future son who would be a King

v.13 – This Son would build a house for God's name (the house of God is the church – **1 Tim.3:15**) and God would establish His Throne forever (not Solomon as his kingdom did not last)

v.14 – God says, "I will be His Father, He shall be My Son"

- the Messiah would be the Son of God, God would be His Father

- Messiah would demonstrate the relationship of Father to Son and Son to Father

- This is God's creation purpose, to have sons relating to Him as Father

Repeated in **1 Chronicles 17:13a**

God will send His Son to be a pattern

Jesus is the Pattern Son, the example, so we can know how to relate to God

Once we know God as Father the Christian life becomes much easier

Psalm 68:5-6

❖ God is a father to the fatherless

❖ God is a defender of widows

❖ God puts solitary people in families

❖ Rebellious ones dwell alone in a dry land

Hebrew "Father" is "Ab" – pronounced "ahv"

- means *father, forefather, producer of certain thing, is said to be one of first words a baby can speak: the Aramaic has this word as "Abba" which in modern Hebrew has become the word Israeli children use for "Daddy"*

Whether we have a good or not good father, we all need to know God as Father

Joseph was going to divorce Mary as he thought she was unfaithful

- Angel told him in a dream what happened

- Joseph then fully embraced the call to be a father to Jesus

- Jesus was also the oldest son in quite a large family

- due to lack of mentioning of Joseph after Jesus was 30, Joseph must have passed away sometime between 12 years and 30 years
- while Joseph was a good father yet he could not be the Father like God was of Jesus

God our Father will never let me down, never disown me even if He has to discipline me

Hebrews 12:3-11

- God scourges every Son whom He receives
- God as a Father disciplines us so we can partake of His Holiness
- Sons have to take responsibility for their choices
- Sons are trusted carry His reputation and name in the earth

A Few references to God as "Father" in the Old Testament

- generally God was not known as Father to people of Old Testament
- In 4 gospels, God is referred to as Father over 170x
- Jesus came to reveal God as Father
- God has a major work and responsibility to give to sons in the earth

Deuteronomy 32:2-6

- ❖ Is God not your Father who bought you?
- ❖ Has He not made you and established you?
- ❖ God created you with an eternal purpose in mind, to be successful in your life on the earth
- ❖ God did not want to just save you to go to heaven, but so you can grow up in Christ, serve God and become a son in the earth

Isaiah 63:16

- ❖ Doubtless God is our Father
- ❖ We may think we do not have any heritage in Abraham, yet God is still our Father
- ❖ It does not matter if Israel recognizes me or not, because God had my name in His book
- ❖ It does not matter about our religious pedigree, whether we are Jews or not etc., God is our Father

Isaiah 64:8

- ❖ Yahweh is our Father
- ❖ As a Father He is a potter, designing our life, having a plan, molding and shaping us
- ❖ **Ephesians 2:10** – we are His workmanship (God's poems, His poetry)

Psalm 89:26

- ❖ He shall cry to Me "You are My Father, My God and the Rock of My salvation"
- ❖ **V.28** – because He is our Father He will keep His New Covenant firm forever

Jeremiah 3:4-5

- ❖ "My Father, You are the guide of My youth"
- ❖ God is able to forgive us
- ❖ As a Father He counsels and guides us

Jeremiah 3:19

- ❖ "You shall call Me, "My Father", and shall not turn away from Me"
- ❖ We do not need to turn away from Him ever again

From today we are to be established in knowing God as our Father

Only our Father can give us our identity, security and all we need

The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

- ❖ which God do you believe in? I believe in the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

2 Corinthians 1:2-4

- Paul begins by ministering grace and peace to us from "God, Father of us, and Lord Jesus Christ" (literal)

- Paul is not speaking of 2 separates, but speaks of God as both the Father of us and the Lord Jesus Christ

- God is not divided but He is both the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

v.3 – The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is the Father of mercies (or the Originator of Mercy)

- **Exodus 33:18** – Moses wanted to see and experience the Glory

- **Exodus 34:5-7** – God then proclaims His name – Merciful and gracious

- God is the Father of mercies and God of all comfort

- He gives us comfort so we can comfort others with what we received from God

Ephesians 1:3

- ❖ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places

6 of the blessings:

a) chosen in Christ (**v.4**)

b) makes us holy and without blame (**v.4**)

c) predestined us to be a son (planned beforehand – **v.5**), God knew us and planned a good future

d) we are accepted (graced) in the Beloved – grace overflowing (**v.6**)

e) we are redeemed, forgiven (**v.7**)

f) we have been made to abound in wisdom and prudence (understanding – **v.8**)

Ephesians 1:17

- ❖ God of our Lord Jesus Christ is the Father of Glory, all glory emanates from our Father in heaven

- ❖ Out of His Glory He gives us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Jesus so we can have an enlightened understanding of deep spiritual things

Ephesians 3:14-15

- ❖ we bow our knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
- ❖ we belong to one big family
- ❖ there is only one great big family as we all have One Father

Who do we pray to?

Colossians 1:3

- ❖ We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
- ❖ Paul reveals that we pray to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
- ❖ Jesus taught us to pray to "Our Father"

1 Thessalonians 3:11

- Now may our God and Father Himself
 - He is not only the God and Father of Jesus but He is also our God and Father
- John 20:17** – when Jesus rose from dead, Mary was looking for Him and realised finally that He was standing right in front of her
- ❖ She gave Jesus a hug but Jesus said "Do not cling to Me...I am ascending to My Father and your Father, My God and your God"
 - ❖ Jesus' God and Father is our God and Father

1 Peter 1:3

- Peter addresses God the same way that Paul does
- "Blessed be the God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ"
- He has begotten us again – got us born again
- brought to a living hope through the resurrection

God is my Father

Our God and Father is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

He was revealed as Father in Old Testament though not many knew Him this way
It was prophesied that Messiah would come and reveal this Father/Son relationship

Then God planned to send His Spirit through Jesus Christ so that we can grow up to become His sons

We are to enjoy the beginnings of an eternal relationship with God as our Father

The Mystery of Godliness

1 Tim 3:15-16

- The foundational mystery of the gospel
- without controversy (confessedly)
- this is something to be confessed
- this is to be proclaimed and spoken out as the truth and there is no argument or debate about it

This was something that the early church used to confess regularly.

God was manifested in the flesh. Jesus is God manifested in the flesh according to this mystery.

This is a reality that is to affect our lives.

Genesis 1:1

- ❖ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth

The God who spoke and created all things was manifested in the flesh. He took on human flesh and walked among us. The invisible God, who is Spirit, put on a human body.

1) God was manifested in the flesh

Isaiah 7:14

- ❖ prophesied 2700 years ago
- ❖ Behold, a virgin shall conceive (no natural father)
- ❖ His name shall be called Immanuel

Matt 1:21-23

- ❖ you shall call His name JESUS
- ❖ He shall save His people from their sins
- ❖ Immanuel = God with us
- ❖ Jesus is God with us
- ❖ This is who Jesus is
- ❖ His origin was from eternity
- ❖ He entered into humanity in the womb of Mary 2000 years ago

Isaiah 9:6

- ❖ unto us a Son is given
- ❖ the government shall be upon His shoulder
- ❖ His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace
- ❖ Father of Eternity

To call Jesus the Son of God is to know the Father.

To call Jesus the Son of God is to recognise Him as the Mighty God.

This is the mystery of godliness, the pillar and ground of truth.

Titus 2:13

- ❖ Jesus is presented as God
- ❖ Our great God and Saviour Jesus the Christ

Romans 9:5

- ❖ ...Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God
- ❖ In the flesh, He was of Israel but by nature He is forever the Eternally Blessed God

He was born into this world as a helpless baby.

He knows exactly what it is like to grow up in this world. This is why we can relate to God so well, because He actually became a man and took on human flesh.

Hebrews 2:14

- ❖ He (God) shared in the same (took on human flesh)
- ❖ He took on flesh so that through death He could destroy him who had the power of death

This is a mystery for us to enter into.

2 Peter 1:1-4

- Peter had the revelation that Jesus Christ is our God and Saviour
- we have been given exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these we may all **partake of the divine nature**
- We are included in this mystery
- We can now partake of God, share in the Godhead

2) He was justified in the Spirit

- the Holy Spirit confirms that God was truly manifested in the flesh
- the Holy Spirit bears witness to this mystery

a) at His conception

Matt 1:20

- ❖ that which is conceived (begotten) in her is of the Holy Spirit
- ❖ this was how God came into the world

Luke 1:35

- ❖ the Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Highest will overshadow you
- ❖ God came into the world as a Man, begotten of the Holy Spirit

b) at Jesus' baptism

Matt 3:16

- ❖ the Spirit of God descended like a dove and alighted upon Him
- ❖ the Holy Spirit was there bearing witness to the truth that Jesus is God in the flesh, the very Son of God (**Is.9:6**)

c) at His death

1 Peter 3:18

- Jesus was put to death in the flesh, but made alive by the Spirit
- you cannot kill God, God is Spirit, it was Jesus' flesh that died
- Jesus is God manifested in the flesh
- even at the death of Jesus, He was justified as God manifested in the flesh
(**Matt 27:50-54** – rocks split, temple veil torn, graves opened)

d) the resurrection

Romans 8:11

- ❖ the Spirit of God is the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead

Romans 1:3-4

- ❖ Jesus was declared to be the Son of God by the Spirit of holiness, through the resurrection from the dead

e) After the resurrection

John 20:22

- ❖ Jesus breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit"
- ❖ **Romans 8:16** – the Spirit bears witness with our spirit

f) The Exaltation/Ascension

Acts 2:33 - the outpouring of the Holy Spirit was proof that Jesus had been raised from the dead and was seated at the right hand, exalted and glorified
Jesus is God manifested in the flesh

3) seen by angels

a) At His Conception

Luke 1:26

- ❖ an angel was sent to Mary
- ❖ Jesus will be called the Son of the Highest
- ❖ The angel was bearing witness that God was going to come into the world through this virgin called Mary

Matthew 1:19-20

- an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream, testifying to who Jesus is

Yeshua (Jesus) – even within the name Jesus is the revelation of this mystery.
Jesus is God saving us. "Yeshua" means "Yahweh saves"

b) Protected as a Child

Matthew 2:13-15

- ❖ Jesus was seen and even watched over by angels, protecting Him from destruction

c) At His Birth

Luke 2:8

- ❖ angels appeared to shepherds bringing good tidings of great joy
- ❖ Christ (the Messiah), the Lord was to be born
- ❖ "The Lord" is God
- ❖ **V.13** – a multitude of heavenly host heralded the birth of God in the flesh

d) In the Wilderness

Matthew 4:11

- ❖ Jesus was in the wilderness and had been tempted by the devil
- ❖ Jesus (as God in the flesh) won a great victory where Adam and Eve failed
- ❖ Angels came and ministered to Him
- ❖ We can also expect angelic help (angels are to minister to the heirs of salvation – **Hebrews 1:13-14**)

e) In the Garden of Gethsemane, prepared for death

Luke 22:43

- an angel came from heaven and strengthened Jesus in preparation for the cross

g) At resurrection

Matthew 28:1-3

- ❖ an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and rolled back the stone from the door of the tomb and sat on it
- ❖ his countenance like lightning and his clothing as white as snow
- ❖ Angels are also around us (when we are brought to birth, when we are going through trials, when it is time for us to die)

4) Preached among the Gentiles (nations)

Mark 16:15

- ❖ Jesus commanded us to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature
- ❖ God wants this mystery to be known in all nations
- ❖ All nations can be a partaker of Jesus' Godhood

Ephesians 3:3-11

- ❖ Paul had revelation of the mystery of Christ
- ❖ The Gentiles should be fellow heirs of the same body and partakers of His promise in Christ
- ❖ Preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ and make all see what is the fellowship of this mystery
- ❖ The manifold wisdom of God to be made known by the church to principalities and powers in the heavenly places

(Acts 10 – Peter preached among the Gentiles)

- Nations partake of this mystery through the preaching

5) believed on in the world

We are to believe this mystery.

John 8:24

- ❖ if you do not believe that I AM, you will die in your sins
- ❖ we need to believe that Jesus is the I AM to be set free from our sin
- ❖ **1 John 3:5** – He (God) was manifested to take away our sins

Mark 16:16 - He who believes and is baptised will be saved

- ❖ We are baptised into God in the flesh
- ❖ This is how we enter into this mystery and become a partaker of Him
- ❖ We become members of Him, of His Body through believing and baptism (**1 Corinthians 12:13**)

John 7:38

- ❖ He who believes in Me... out of his heart will flow rivers of living water (this is the giving of the Holy Spirit)
- ❖ We receive and are able to release the Holy Spirit through believing in Jesus as God manifest in flesh

6) Received up in glory

Mark 16:19

- ❖ the Lord was received up into heaven (in glory) and sat down at the right hand of God
- ❖ seated in the position of all authority and power

Acts 1:9-11

- ❖ a cloud received Jesus out of their sight
- ❖ angels appeared

Jesus was being placed in the position of all authority and power.

He ascended to the Father.

John 1:18 – the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared God

John 20:17 – Jesus ascended back to the Father

Ephesians 2:6

- ❖ we have also been raised up and made to sit together with Christ in the heavenly places
- ❖ Jesus wants us to be where He is
- ❖ He wants us in the glory, in the Father, with Him
- ❖ This is how we partake of the mystery, being received up in glory with Him!

Colossians 3:4 – When Christ, our life, appears we will also appear with Him in glory

Without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness!

The Great Commission

Genesis 1:26-28

- ❖ first record of "Great Commission"
- ❖ Firstly God made man, male and female, in the image of God
- ❖ He made man to look like man
- ❖ He made woman to look like woman

1. **Be fruitful** – today does not mean just having natural babies, it means having spiritual children, brought up to know God, brought up to be sons
2. **Multiply** – if we successfully bring up spiritual children to be sons, then they can do the same (in natural = grandchildren), generational discipleship, bringing up spiritual children who can bring up others – we must prepare spiritual sons (sons of kingdom planted in the world – **Matt.13:36-43**)
3. **Fill the Earth** –

Primary purpose for all of us is to raise sons

Jesus ministered to thousands but on the night He was betrayed He prayed and reported to the Father about the 11 He raised up as sons, as apostles to send out into the world

This is the only way we can fill the earth

We are to make disciples of all nations, people groups (**Matthew 28:18-20**)

Let us all humble down, get rid of ambition and make sure we are disciplined properly so we can disciple others

How to do it?

- ❖ I raise spiritual sons
- ❖ Those sons then raise spiritual sons
- ❖ The sons of the those sons start raising spiritual sons
- ❖ **2 Timothy 2:2** – apostle → Timothy (sons, ministers) → Faithful men (people, sons of sons) → Others also (more people who can teach others)
- ❖ This is the apostolic succession from generation to generation

4. **Subdue the enemy** – we have to ask what the fruit is of all this "prophetic intercessory prayer"?

- ❖ Where are the sons emerging?
- ❖ Where is the unified Body of Christ coming together to stand against the works of the enemy?
- ❖ We are to reach zones, regions where the enemy is subdued and the Presence of God takes over in a place
- ❖ We need well disciplined missionaries who will disciple nations rather than just bring practical facilities

5. **Have dominion over all things created...**

- ❖ only possible if first 4 steps are completed

- ❖ The church is meant to take spiritual authority in all areas of life
- ❖ We are to rule and reign in the earth in Christ Jesus, the Word of the Lord prevailing

In the New Covenant

Matthew 28:18-20

- ❖ this is New Testament version of **Genesis 1:28**
- ❖ All authority has been given to Jesus in heaven and earth
- ❖ All means "all", total, complete, nothing left out
- ❖ With that authority He told us to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..."
- ❖ "Go" has the same sense as being "sent"
- ❖ We are "sent" to make disciples of all nations
- ❖ When we are "sent" we have the authority to go, we have authority to speak and make disciples

What is a disciple?

1. A learner
2. A follower
3. An imitator
4. One who receives a teacher
5. One who receives the teaching

A disciple is one who is taught in the Word

Are you willing to learn, follow, imitate...

We are sent to nations, "ethnos". A group of people with a shared culture

There are many other ethnic groups within Australia, they share a particular culture

What might be fitting and right for a white community, may not be beneficial for indigenous communities

This is the same in India, South American countries and Africa...

Jesus had all this in mind when he said to go and make disciples of all nations

A mistake in Australia – white missionaries went to indigenous and taught them how to be members of "white church"

- like Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian or
- this has happened wherever white missionaries have gone
- when indigenous need some power they go back to the witchdoctor
- There must be teaching, a lifestyle to follow from the teacher, apostolic teachers

Luke 24:47

- ❖ that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at SHILOH or wherever you are

What is the message?

- ❖ Nothing to do with a denominational set of beliefs
- ❖ It is a message of repentance

- ❖ Receiving good information that enables us to be able to change our minds
- ❖ We are to make disciples, preach repentance, tell people truth about Jesus so they can change their minds
- ❖ We also preach remission of sins
- ❖ If you are willing to change your mind and believe in Jesus Christ you will have your sins remitted

Mark 16:15

- ❖ Jesus said to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"
- v.16** - Those who believe need to be baptised
- v.17** – those who believe in the name of Jesus will cast out demons, speak in tongues...lay hands on sick and they will recover (empowered in Holy Spirit to do work of ministry)

Matthew 28:19

- ❖ "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..."
- ❖ People all over the world for 1800 years use this formula religiously – "baptising them into the name of Father... Son ...Holy Spirit"
- ❖ 1st important step of making disciples is to baptise them
- ❖ We are told to baptise in the name (singular) not three names
- ❖ Father, Son and Holy Spirit are not names but titles
- ❖ Jesus commanded baptism in the Name

How did apostles obey Him?

1. **Acts 2:38** – Peter told the people to "repent and let every one of you be baptised **in the name of Jesus Christ** for the remission of sins..."
 - ❖ Peter did not baptise in the "name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit"
 - ❖ Peter had revelation and knew truth that was going to convince 3000 souls to be baptised
 - ❖ Peter did not mention "Father, Son and Holy Spirit"
 - ❖ Peter said to be baptised in the **name of Jesus Christ**

2. **Acts 8:16**
 - ❖ Philip had baptised the believers in Samaria **in the name of the Lord Jesus**
 - ❖ **V.12** – men and women baptised after heeding the preaching of Philip (one of deacons in Acts 6, a faithful disciple of apostles in Jerusalem)
 - ❖ **V.14** – Peter and John came down to Samaria from Jerusalem
 - ❖ They came to release Holy Spirit through laying on of hands

3. **Acts 10:48**
 - ❖ Peter preached in Cornelius' house
 - ❖ The people heard, the Holy Spirit fell upon them
 - ❖ Peter said who could forbid them water to be baptised
 - ❖ Then Peter commanded they be baptised in the **name of the Lord** (in Spanish Bible – "Lord Jesus")

4. Acts 19:5

- ❖ Paul had found some disciples in Ephesus
- ❖ They had been baptised with John the Baptist's baptism
- ❖ Paul preached Jesus and they were baptized in the **name of the Lord Jesus**

In Acts, they baptised in the name of the Jesus

Acts 4:12

- ❖ Peter said there is salvation in no other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved
- ❖ The name of Jesus
- ❖ There is only one name which has authority

Philippians 2:9-11

- ❖ God highly exalted Jesus and gave Him the name which is above every (all) name...

The apostles knew by revelation that if you really know who Jesus is that you have seen the "express image of God's person"

- ❖ If you baptise in name of Jesus, then you come into the fullness of God (**Colossians 2:9**)
- ❖ "fullness" means full complement, no more room left, no spaces left

One reality that will swing the church into Great Commission action is the revelation of the name of Jesus, Yeshua

It is time to stop quoting a formula without knowledge and understanding and rejecting the apostolic practice clearly in the Scripture

"Teaching them to observe everything I have commanded.."

- ❖ Jesus told the disciples to celebrate the Lord's Table – in Matthew, Mark and Luke and clarified by Paul in 1 Corinthians 11
- ❖ Contemporary church tends to ignore the Lord's Table, practice baptism according to Roman Catholic law and teach denominational doctrines
- ❖ We are to do what Jesus says!

God our Father 2

Ephesians 5:1

- ❖ Be imitators of God as dear children
- ❖ The main understanding of God we need to have is that He is Father

Jesus really brought the revelation of the Father

When we go, we are sent and the One who sends us goes with us

The Father goes with us when He sends us

Disciples who are sent are always with the Father

"Father" in the gospel of Matthew

Matthew 5:16

- ❖ believers are meant to be salt and light (**Matt.5:13-15**)
- ❖ salt makes food flavoursome
- ❖ Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven
- ❖ Our good conduct and behaviour will help others see the Father
- ❖ When people see how we respond to all situations, they will get to know our Father

Matthew 5:43-44

- ❖ we have many enemies
- ❖ within Australia and Kenya and other nations there are enemies trying to destroy nations
- ❖ how do we treat those enemies?
- ❖ Jesus said, "Love your enemies..."
- ❖ We do not curse, we seek to do good to them, we pray for them
- ❖ The result is that "we will be sons of our Father in heaven"
- ❖ Our Father sends rain on the just and the unjust, even looks after them
- ❖ We can recognise the hand of God upon us even when we were against Him and living rebelliously
- ❖ God wants us to behave the same way

Matthew 5:48

- ❖ if we learn to love our enemies we will be "perfect" just as our Father in heaven is perfect
- ❖ **Word Wealth in James 3:2:** *"perfect" in Gk "teleios" = that which has reached an end, that is, finished, complete, perfect. It signifies consummate soundness and includes the idea of being whole. When speaking of believers it denotes maturity*

Matthew 6

- ❖ context is having right attitude to giving, praying and fasting
- v.6** – when you pray, go into your inner room (not interrupted), pray to your Father who is in the secret place
 - who is waiting for us in our prayer room? Our Father is already there when we come to our room to pray to Him
 - The Father is in the secret place of prayer
 - The Father is there when we come to give, He sees what we plan to do in secret with our giving
 - The Father then rewards us openly
 - Father sees us fasting in secret place and will reward us openly

Matthew 6:9

- ❖ In this manner we are to pray
- ❖ "Our Father in heaven"
- ❖ Father is so often referred to as being "in heaven"
- ❖ Our Father is in another realm, the kingdom of heaven, it is the invisible realm
- ❖ Jesus wants us remembering where our Father dwells – in heaven
- ❖ It is a place in the Spirit, you can feel it, touch it and see it manifest through behaviour
- ❖ Heaven is a realm and reality in the Spirit
- ❖ Our Father is in heaven, a complete place of love, light, fulfilment

Matthew 7:7

- ❖ Ask and it will be given to you...
- ❖ Seek and knock
- ❖ These are all saying not to ask once but to ask and keep asking, seek and keep seeking and knock and keep knocking
- ❖ This is to prove your faith, to see the genuineness of our faith, the perseverance of faith
- ❖ Do not stop until you get the answer

- v.11** – if you, being evil (compared to God we are all evil), seek to look after your children
- how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask Him
 - our Father wants to answer us
 - **Luke** says how much more will the Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him (**Luke 11:13**)

Matthew 6:14-15

- ❖ if we forgive men their trespasses our heavenly Father will forgive us
- ❖ God is very willing to forgive
- ❖ God was even willing to forgive Ahab even after such wicked things he did
- ❖ Forgiveness is very often a very deep issue because of deep hurt that has been caused
- ❖ When we do not forgive, we carry that person around on our shoulder
- ❖ Sometimes you cannot forgive until you are healed on the inside

- ❖ Forgiveness sets us free

Matthew 7:21

- ❖ only those who do the will of Jesus' Father will enter the kingdom
- v.22-23** – even people who have done signs and wonders, ministers, are conducting ministry in a lawless way
 - Jesus says, "I did not know you"
 - power, signs and wonders do not always equal God
 - the answer is to be sent
 - to be committed, submitted, accountable and sent (apostleship)

Matthew 10:17-20

- ❖ context is Jesus commissioning and sending out the apostles
- ❖ do not be surprised if you get into trouble when you are sent out by Jesus
- ❖ "It is not us who speak but the Spirit of our Father who speaks in us"
- ❖ Our Father will give us the words to say when we are sent by Him
- ❖ We need to remain calm so we can hear that inner voice of the Father
- ❖ Walk with God and speak what He speaks into your heart

Matthew 10:32-33

- ❖ if we confess Jesus before men then Jesus will confess us before the Father in heaven
- ❖ there is a direct link to our Father when we are obedient and preaching/confessing Jesus

Matthew 11:25-27

- ❖ Jesus thanks the Father
- ❖ Father is "Lord of heaven and earth" (**Matt.28:18** – Jesus has all authority, **Acts 2:36** – God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ)
- ❖ Father hides things from worldly wise and prudent and gives revelation to babes
- ❖ So youngest Christians can receive awesome revelation from Father
- ❖ Father reveals mysteries to little children, because they are so open
- ❖ It pleases Father to do this
- ❖ Father has delivered all things to Jesus (Jesus is Lord)
- ❖ No one knows Son except Father
- ❖ When Jesus was on the earth, not even His disciples, or His mother, really knew who He was
- ❖ No one knows the Father except the Son
- ❖ Jesus is very exclusive, the Jewish religion had not given the knowledge of Father to the people
- ❖ Only those who the Son wills to reveal the Father to get to know Him
- ❖ Can only know Father through Son
- ❖ We are chosen to know Father through Son, we were chosen before the world was created, we are special (**Ephesians 1:4-5** – it was His will and it makes Him happy)

Matthew 13:43

- ❖ context of parable of wheat and tares
- ❖ Jesus' final comment is that the righteous will shine forth like the sun in the kingdom of their Father
- ❖ Jesus is talking about the work of the gospel in the earth
- ❖ **V.38**, the field is the world, the harvest is the end of the age
- ❖ When the gospel has completed its work in the earth through the preaching of messengers then the righteous will shine forth like the sun
- ❖ The kingdom of our Father will manifest in earth, in righteousness

Matthew 15:13

- ❖ Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted
- ❖ We are planted by God's choice in His house
- ❖ God foreknew and predestined us, we are of His planting
- ❖ If they are not planted by God, they will be uprooted

Matthew 16:17

- ❖ after Jesus confessed that Jesus was both Christ and Son of God
- ❖ Jesus told Peter that flesh and blood did not reveal but the Father
- ❖ Revelation comes from Father, from heaven
- ❖ **Ephesians 1:17** – Father of Glory grants spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Jesus Christ – it comes from Father by His Spirit showing us who Jesus (**Revelation 19:10**, the Spirit will always bring revelation of who Jesus is)

Matthew 16:24-27

- ❖ challenging "disciple" verses
- ❖ Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father...will reward each according to his works
- ❖ There will be rewards coming from the glory of His Father when Jesus comes

Matthew 18:10

- ❖ little ones have angels in heaven who always see the face of Father
- ❖ Jesus warns us not to despise little children and if we teach them wrong things we will be accountable
- ❖ Little children have angels who see the face of Father in heaven

Matthew 18:14

- ❖ speaking of the lost sheep
- ❖ Son of Man looks for the sheep
- ❖ It is not will of Father for anyone to perish
- ❖ Father wants all to come to Him

Matthew 18:19

- ❖ when 2 of us agree concerning anything that we ask, it will be done for us by our Father in heaven
- ❖ 2 of us can change history
- ❖ Jesus said this

- ❖ He wants us to come into a deep agreement in the Spirit with God's will so we can see what he wants released on earth

Matthew 18:35

- ❖ Our heavenly Father will deliver us to the torturers if we are not willing to forgive
- ❖ It is the grace of God which enables us to forgive

Matthew 20:23

- ❖ the sons of Zebedee's mother wanted her boys to have the highest place of honour in the kingdom
- ❖ to sit on right and left is for those who it is prepared by My Father

Nicholas Jackson

The Resurrection

Genesis 2:16-17

- ❖ in the day that you eat of it (the tree of the knowledge of good and evil) you shall surely die (dying you shall die)

Romans 6:23

- ❖ the wages of sin is death
- ❖ sin brought death
- ❖ we were not created to die
- ❖ death entered the world because of man's disobedience

The teaching of evolution is false, because there was no death before man was created. Death came as a result of sin.

Death not only affected man, but everything (all creation).

BUT, there is a hope.

God gave hope, even at the very time when man disobeyed God.

There is a reverse to the curse. Through man everything will live again.

Genesis 3:14-15

- ❖ I will put enmity between you (the serpent) and the woman and between your seed and her Seed
- ❖ He (her seed) shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel. This is prophetic of the virgin birth as the Seed will come from the woman, not the man
- ❖ There is a hope.
- ❖ This hope is even in creation itself (Romans 8:19-22)

1 Peter 1:3

- begotten again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead
- Because Jesus is alive we have this living hope
- It is through the resurrection from the dead
- When Jesus rose again, He breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit" (**John 20:22**)
- A whole new creation coming forth

In the beginning, God breathed into Adam the breath of life and he came alive.

Acts 23:6

- ❖ What was the apostle Paul being judged for?
- ❖ The Sadducees did not believe in the hope of the resurrection
- ❖ The Pharisees believed in the resurrection
- ❖ Paul had the wisdom of God and declared that it was concerning the hope of the resurrection that he was being judged
- ❖ This caused the assembly to be divided
- ❖ Paul knew that the hope was in a resurrection

- ❖ This is the awesome hope that we have
 - ❖ Consider the testimony of Enoch in the Bible (He walked with God 300 years and then one day he was not)
 - ❖ Enoch never tasted death. He entered into glory in his body.
 - ❖ Have you considered Elijah? (He was taken up by a whirlwind in a chariot to heaven)
 - ❖ Jesus ascended to His Father (**John 20:17**) and His body was changed
- John 5:24-25** – the time is coming and now is that the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live (passing from death to life) – just like Mary heard the voice of Jesus and she came alive as she recognized Jesus was alive

If we lose our life for Him we will find it (going from death to life).

- ❖ Living we will live
- ❖ The curse of death being reversed
- ❖ The resurrection begins in us when we are born again

John 20:19-20, 27

- ❖ Jesus' body had been glorified
- ❖ He was a real body, but different, eternal
- ❖ Our bodies are to become like His

Acts 24:15-16

- ❖ We have hope in God
- ❖ There will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust
- ❖ Living in view of the resurrection, changes the way we live
- ❖ Strive to stay as close to God as we possibly can
- ❖ Know for certain that there will be a resurrection

Acts 26:6-8

- ❖ this promise was made by God to our fathers
- ❖ God raises the dead (why should it be thought incredible?)
- ❖ Death is not the end, there is a resurrection
- ❖ Live in view of this hope

The Promise made to our fathers in the Old Testament

Genesis 22:2-5

- ❖ take now your son, your only son (pointing ahead to Jesus – a shadow of what was to come)
- ❖ offer him as a burnt offering
- ❖ Abraham obeyed God
- ❖ On the third day Abraham said to his young men, "We will come back to you"
- ❖ What was Abraham thinking? He believed something in his heart and he confessed it with his mouth.

Hebrews 11:17-19

- ❖ Abraham concluded that God was able to raise Isaac up, even from the dead

- ❖ He knew the promise that he had received from God (In Isaac your seed shall be called)
- ❖ Abraham believed in the resurrection
- ❖ This was the hope of the promise made to our fathers
- ❖ The only begotten son would be offered up and raised again on the third day

Job 19:25-27

- ❖ For I know that my Redeemer lives
- ❖ He shall stand at last on the earth
- ❖ After my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God
- ❖ Job had hope in the resurrection
- ❖ Job's heart yearned within him

Hosea 13:14

- ❖ I will ransom them from the power of the grave
- ❖ I will redeem them from death
- ❖ O Death, I will be your plagues!
- ❖ O Grave, I will be your destruction!
- ❖ God has no pity for death
- ❖ God hates death
- ❖ God by His very nature is life

Hebrews 2:14-15

- ❖ Jesus partook of flesh and blood that through death He might destroy the devil
- ❖ Jesus destroyed him who had the power of death
- ❖ We are released to have no more fear of death
- ❖ Even if we die, we shall live
- ❖ Whoever lives and believes in Jesus shall never die (**John 11:25-26**)

1 Corinthians 15:17

- if Christ is not risen, we are still in our sins (our faith is futile)

v.20 - BUT Christ is risen from the dead and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep

v.21 - In Adam all die

- In Christ all shall be made alive

- Believe that God raised Jesus from the dead, confess Him as Lord and be baptised in His name

- We will then begin to experience and walk in the power of the resurrection

❖ Be baptised into the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus (**Rom.6:3-5**)

❖ We come up in a new life (in the likeness of His resurrection)

❖ Reckoning ourselves dead to sin and alive in Christ Jesus (**Rom.6:11**)

1 Cor 15:23

- Christ the firstfruits, afterwards those who are Christ's at His coming

- there will be a resurrection at His coming

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

- don't be ignorant of the hope we have

- don't be ignorant concerning those who have died
- We have hope!

v.14 – God will bring with Him (Jesus) those who sleep in Jesus

- believe that Jesus died and rose again (this is what our faith is in)
- Those who have died are not sleeping in the grave, they are sleeping in Jesus

v.15 – if we are alive when Jesus comes or if we have already died it doesn't matter, we will all partake of the resurrection

v.16 – the Lord will descend from heaven... the dead in Christ will rise first (Consider – Why would Jesus bring those who sleep in Christ when He comes, if He is just going to go back to heaven?)

- ❖ The dead in Christ will rise
- ❖ Jesus is coming down from heaven
- ❖ There is a trumpet that sounds
- ❖ **1 Cor 15:51-52** – we shall all be changed...at the last trumpet, the dead will be raised incorruptible and we shall be changed
- ❖ There is a generation that will not see death
- ❖ We Jesus descends from heaven, when He comes, the trumpet will sound (confirming that the dead will be raised)

1 Thess 4:17

- we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them (the dead in Christ)

- we shall be caught up in the resurrection – We shall be changed!

- in the clouds (the same way Jesus went is the same way He will come **Acts**

1:11)

- Jesus is descending from heaven

- We will meet Him in the air as He is coming

- He is coming with ten thousands of His saints (**Jude 14-15**)

- We shall be changed and thus we shall always be with the Lord

This is the hope of the gospel!

Grace and apostleship

Romans 1:5

- ❖ Through Jesus Christ we have received grace and apostleship
- ❖ This is for the purpose to bring nations to obedience to the faith for the sake of Jesus
- ❖ Every nation is to come to the obedience of the faith

What is "the faith"?

How do we bring the nations to the obedience of this faith?

Jude 3

- ❖ We should contend earnestly for the faith
- ❖ "contend" means to compete in a forceful way, not a passive word
- ❖ The apostle Jude is stirring us to contend for the faith
- ❖ We do not "agree to disagree" or have "unity in diversity"
- ❖ Despite the fact that it is 90% unpopular we need to tell pastors that baptism is in the name of Jesus – we know this from **Acts** by seeing the way the apostles behaved and obeyed Jesus
- ❖ We need to contend earnestly for the Lord's Table (Catholic, High Anglican and Coptic church base their services around the Body and Blood of Jesus – probably the reason they have remained)
- ❖ Protestant churches survive on some form of preaching the gospel but often neglect the Lord's Table

Acts 2:42 – the early church continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine, in fellowship, in the breaking of bread and prayers

- ❖ five important statements
 - 1. We are to continue steadfastly** – remember when you were a baby Christian and just wanted to be a disciple and follow wholeheartedly after Jesus
- ❖ We are meant to be going on in a committed way
- ❖ We have received grace and apostleship, so powerful and charged with authority, it will cause nations to obey the faith
- ❖ If we get one real disciple in a nation we can take the nation
- ❖ We just need committed disciples
- ❖ We reach nations through trusted disciples in those nations

Grace

Ephesians 2:7-8

- ❖ In the ages to come God will show the riches of grace in us in Christ
- ❖ Over 130x in New T is the word "grace"
- ❖ Gk "charis" – *the divine influence on the human heart. Grace works mysteriously. It manifests in a changed life. It works invisibly on your inner man until that grace is reflected in your life. Grace indicates favour on behalf of the Giver. Grace is God's favour towards us. On our behalf, grace manifests*

in our gratitude to God for what He has done for us. Grace removes guilt. Grace is manifested in graciousness, lovingkindness and goodwill. There is no ill-will in grace.

- ❖ By grace we were saved through faith
- ❖ We cannot do it ourselves, it is the gift of God

2 Timothy 1:9

- God saved and called us not according to our works
- He did it according to His own purpose and grace
- i) God had a purpose ii) Grace made available to achieve that purpose
- God called and saved us to release His grace in our lives, so that His eternal purpose can be achieved, which is to bring all nations to obedience of faith
- This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus **before time began**
- Before God created anything, He made His grace available to us
- the created universe is charged with grace
- we are all walking in a cloud of grace – He gives life to make things grow and give us food, it is all by grace
- but when we believed in Jesus we suddenly were able to partake of that grace, we discover the grace, realising now it was always there
- what opened that door of grace? Believing in Jesus

Ephesians 1:5-6

- ❖ we have been predestined to the adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself...to the praise of the glory of His grace
- ❖ when we come to the revelation that we are the sons of God, we get another bundle of grace released in our life
- ❖ when we believed and received the grace of salvation, that was awesome and life-changing
- ❖ now when we step into sonship by revelation, another big download of grace becomes available to us
- ❖ we suddenly realise we are a son, not just a child playing, not just a servant working hard in the house, but a son united with my Father
- ❖ this is a manifestation of grace
- ❖ our lives are meant to be a manifestation of God's grace, so God can say "Look at My sons"

The Grace gifts

How are we going to fulfil the Great Commission? Romans 1:5 – it is by grace and apostleship

Ephesians 4:7-11

- ❖ the grace is released by receiving the five ministries that Jesus gave in His ascension
- ❖ if we stay under a pastor all the time we only have a portion of grace
- ❖ we have all received grace according to the measure of Christ's gift
- ❖ **v.8** – When Jesus ascended He led captivity captive and gave gifts to men
- ❖ **v.11** – those gifts are 5 – apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers

- ❖ These are the gifts of Christ Himself to release the grace for the church to grow to maturity
- ❖ **V.12** – these gifts are to do the work of ministry, setting the church in order to function and building up the whole body
- ❖ **V.13** – until we all come to the unity of faith, knowledge of Son of God to a perfect Man
- ❖ **Even as Father was revealed in Christ, so Christ is to be revealed in the church**

There is saving grace, grace of sonship, grace gifts given to bring church to maturity

Apostleship

Gk "apostole" – *signifies a sending, a mission, a commission*

- ❖ We say **Matthew 28:18-20** is the "Great Commission" which is to make disciples of all nations, baptising and teaching them how to observe the teachings of Jesus
- ❖ We are not only to teach the words of Jesus but also show people how to observe that word
- ❖ We are not to fall in the trap of being filled with the word only without the lifestyle
- ❖ How do disciples behave? What time do they get out of bed? Do they read the Word daily? Do they break bread with their family? Do they pray?
- ❖ Discipleship must be living and active in our life

We need a big download of grace and an understanding of apostleship to fulfil the commission

Apostleship in Greek can also be translated as "apostolate" – the ministry you have been sent to do

Apostleship mentioned in:

- 1. Romans 1:5**
- 2. Acts 1:25**
- ❖ the choosing of the 12th apostle
- ❖ to take part in this ministry and apostleship
- 3. 1 Corinthians 9:2**
- ❖ the Corinthians were the seal of Paul's apostleship in the Lord
- ❖ there is fruit/proof that comes from apostleship
- ❖ your functioning as a Christian Church is proof that Paul is an apostle
- ❖ this apostleship we have received in Christ enables us to produce churches of disciples that function in discipleship
- 4. Galatians 2:8**
- ❖ Paul is meeting with the senior apostles in Jerusalem
- ❖ They recognized Peter's apostleship was to the circumcised/Jews
- ❖ They recognized Paul's apostleship was to the Gentile nations
- ❖ This speaks of the sphere of ministry of the apostleship
- ❖ We have joined with Paul in this apostleship to the nations

- ❖ This is real, and this is how we fulfil the great commission

The Grace is a free download we need

The apostleship is the authority and commission to bring obedience to nations

Apostleship is about being sent by Jesus Christ

When we are sent, the Sender goes with us

If we are sent in Christ, by the elders and other ministers in Christ, Christ goes with us

We are never sent to work on our own

Sent = Gk "apostello" – set apart, sent out (stay on the mission), mainly translated as send, can mean "set at liberty", Vines says "to order one to go to a place appointed", "refers to Jesus being sent by the Father, the apostles sent by Jesus, messengers are sent ones, servants can be sent, angels are sent, it means to send away, to dismiss, to allow one to depart, to be sent in a state of liberty.

A few sent ones

Jesus and apostles – John 17:18 – "As You sent Me, Father, now I am sending these ones (apostles) into the world

- ❖ He sent them on appointment, with authority

Matthew 10:40

- ❖ if they receive the apostles, they will receive Me (Jesus), and if they receive Me (Jesus), they receive the One who sent Me (Father)
- ❖ **John 13:20**
- ❖ **John 12:44-45**
If we believe in Jesus, we actually believe in Him who sent Jesus

Paul was sent

Acts 9:15-16

- ❖ Paul was sent as a chosen vessel
- Acts 18:9-10**
- ❖ for I (who sent you) am with you
- ❖ the One who sent Paul was with Paul in Corinth in a very challenging situation in Corinth
- ❖ If Jesus was with Paul that makes Paul a sent one
- ❖ You do not have to be an apostle to draw on apostleship
- ❖ Paul wrote to Romans that "we" have received grace and apostleship

Genesis 24:4

- ❖ Abraham's oldest servant was sent to go to Abraham's family's country to get a wife for Isaac
- ❖ He discovered God was with him
- ❖ **V.27** – As for me, being on the way, Yahweh led me
- ❖ **KJV** "I, being in the way, Yahweh led me"
- ❖ The Sender goes before us leading the way

Isaiah was sent

Isaiah 6:8

- ❖ Whom shall I send? And who will go for Us?
- ❖ Isaiah said, "Here am I, send me"

Jeremiah was sent

Jeremiah 1:7-8

- ❖ Do not say "I am a youth"
- ❖ You shall go to all I send you
- ❖ You shall speak what I command
- ❖ Do not be afraid of their faces
- ❖ I AM WITH YOU
- ❖ Even when Jeremiah ended up in a boggy pit, who was with Him? Yahweh was with Him

The Revelation of God – Part 1

Deuteronomy 6:4

- ❖ This has been the foundation and pillar of truth for true Israelites who believe the Word of God
- ❖ Hear O Israel, YHWH (not "LORD") our God, YHWH One
- ❖ The foundation of the revelation of God is that YHWH is actually God, the only God, the Supreme God; He revealed Himself to Moses
- ❖ YHWH is the One we call "God"
- ❖ Some cultures do not even have a word for "God" – Japan has "gods" but not the word "God"
- ❖ China has some heritage of knowing of a "Great God"
- ❖ That only God appeared to Moses in the burning bush
- ❖ That God said to Him, My name is YHWH (in English – "I AM")
- ❖ God is always God – He is the Eternal One

1 John 5:7

- There are three that bear witness in heaven
- The Father, The Word and the Holy Spirit
- These three **are one**
- There is only One God
- There is not three gods but One God
- Not three different persons but One
- The Father is God
- The Word is God (**John 1:1**)
- The Holy Spirit is God
- This is teaching us the Oneness of God

In the fourth century the church leaders/bishops agreed and legislated that God is three, not one and called God "Trinity"

Well-known theologians admit and confess that describing God as "Trinity" is based on Greek philosophy

We need to look in the Scripture to find out who God is

In 16th century there was a great uprising in society called the "Reformation"

- ❖ Martin Luther began to teach Romans and Galatians to students
- ❖ He was converted and believed in Jesus
- ❖ The Word ended up getting out and bringing freedom to Europe
- ❖ Ever since then there has been ongoing moves of the Holy Spirit to restore gifts and truth to the church to prepare the church for Jesus to come
- ❖ Revival, renewal, reformation, restoration
- ❖ In the reformation there was a proclamation in Latin made "Sola Scriptura" = "Scripture alone"

- ❖ Our only authority for faith and practice is the Scripture, the Word of God
- ❖ Christian refugees who fled persecution in Europe to North America made a covenant with God for Him to be their King
- ❖ One of the final restorations to take place is to come to the revelation of who God really is

A history of the doctrines of men

1. 1st age we call the "apostolic age"
 - began in **Acts 2** in the birthing of the Church
 - Peter did not talk about the "Trinity"
 - Peter preached Jesus
 - **Acts 2:36** – God has made this Jesus both "Lord and Christ"
 - In Old T, "Lord" was always YHWH
 - if Jesus is "Lord" He must be YHWH in the flesh
 - Peter preached Jesus the Christ
 - this apostolic age lasted nearly 200 years
 - but already at the time of writing the New Testament, false doctrine was creeping in, Bishops rising up to be singular rulers of God's people (**3 John 9**)
 - the apostolic teaching weakened and was replaced by a "church doctrine" spoken by these "bishops"
 - the bishops still did not teach "Trinity"
 - no "Trinity" doctrine in the first 200 years

2. In 200 AD, first mention of word "Trinity" but was not taught like it is today
 - the doctrine of "Trinity" was established in 381 AD by a church council
 - basically legislated as a doctrine of the church and those who did not accept was a heretic who could be put to death for heresy
 - This was the time that the Roman church came to pre-eminence
 - Rome adopted Christianity as its formal religion, and it became very political with Bishops now having much worldly authority
 - Thus came the rise of the "Pope", the "infallible" leader of the church on the earth
 - the church of Rome became very powerful and formally adopted the "Trinity" doctrine

- "Trinity" doctrine is not based on Scripture but on Greek philosophy
 - ❖ even scholars say this does not adequately explain who God is but it "is the best we have" they say
 - ❖ Today pastors and church leaders accept this doctrine by tradition, not revelation of Scripture
 - ❖ The apostles preached Jesus the Messiah (**Acts 5:42**), not "Trinity"
 - ❖ This is the apostolic doctrine
 - ❖ We will get in trouble for this just like the apostles did
 - ❖ Even Pentecostals accept Catholic doctrine of "Trinity"
 - ❖ It manifests in baptism in the name "of Father, Son and Holy Spirit" (**Matthew 28:19**)
 - ❖ The apostles fulfilled this by baptising in the name of Jesus (**Acts 2:38, Acts 19:5, Acts 8:16**)

3. Late 1990s – restoration of Biblical doctrine by apostles being raised
- apostles and prophets are meant to be making known the revelation and mystery of Christ (**Eph.3:5**)
 - this restoration is replacing all these traditions and doctrines of men with revelational truth of Word

Today up to 10-20% of church does not accept “Trinity”

Apostles today are “apostles of Jesus Christ”

- ❖ they come preaching and proving that Jesus the Messiah is the Son of God
- ❖ this is the truth, the foundation

The mystery of God

Colossians 2:1-3

- ❖ Paul has a big burden and “struggle/conflict” for these churches
- ❖ Paul wants their hearts knit together in love
- ❖ Paul wants them to attain to all riches and full assurance (confidence and security of what you believe) of understanding
- ❖ **To the knowledge of the mystery of God**
- ❖ this is all taking us to the revelation of God, to the knowledge of the mystery of God
- ❖ We are to be focused on God
- ❖ **Both of the Father and Christ**
- ❖ The mystery of God is both of the Father and of Christ
- ❖ We are not “Oneness” preachers, we are into the “Mystery of God” which is both of the Father and of Christ
- ❖ **2 John 9**- those who transgress and do not abide in the doctrine of Christ, do not have God
- ❖ if we abide in the doctrine of Christ, we have both the Father and the Son

Colossians 2:3

- ❖ in whom (Christ) are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge
- ❖ In Christ is hidden all the knowledge of God, the treasures of God, the wisdom of God
- ❖ **Matthew 11:25-27** – We know the Father in the Son

Colossians 2:4

- ❖ Paul is saying this so we will not be deceived with persuasive words
- ❖ Paul does not want us deceived

v.5

- Paul rejoices to see the good order and steadfastness of their faith in Christ
- **Eph.4:14** – who are these men who are tricking the children of God? These are Christian ministers who have been to seminary, been ordained, they tell lies and trick unstable children of God
- Peter and Jude spoke of false teachers, deceiving God’s people

v.6

- as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him
- do not think you need to receive anything else
- many who go to Bible School do not know what to believe anymore
- as you received Jesus, stay with that and walk in it!
- we need teachers and preachers of the Word of God
- God in Christ comes into our life
- why go to a seminary that wants to teach something different to the powerful One who entered my life to cause me to be born again
- Let's walk in Christ

v.7

- rooted and built up in Christ
- have you been taught of Christ?
- we must be properly taught

v.8

- beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy
- "Trinity" doctrine is a Greek philosophy
- and empty deceit according to tradition of men (=tradition of catholic church)
- many protestants are very anti-catholic but their churches still do many of the same things
- "according to the basic principles of this world" or "elementary spirits of the world"
- and not according to Christ

v.9

- "For in Him (Christ) dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily"
- "Godhead" = "Divinity", everything that refers to and pertains to God
- "Godhead" is talking of all that is God
- **Matthew 28:19** – Father, Son and Holy Spirit is a reference to the "Godhead"
- In the Man Christ Jesus, dwells all the fullness of God
- Everything that is of God is in Christ

v.10

- you are complete in Him (Christ) who is the head of all principality and power

2 Corinthians 5:19

- that "God was in Christ"
- How much of God was in Christ?
- Is it a third of God?
- It says that "God" was in Christ
- Who is God?
- YHWH is God, In the beginning God created...
- All the fullness of God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself

This revelation will change your preaching and you will become a preacher of truth

1 Timothy 3:14-15

- The church is the house of God
- The church is the living pillar and foundation of truth
- the truth is to be found in the church
- what is the truth? It is of who God is

1 Corinthians 2:6-7

- if we are wanting to know God we have to be willing to keep growing
- we are to have the hidden things revealed to us, the wisdom of God which releases the glory in our life

We are to grow up and face these big issues of knowing who God is, what is His purpose, what is the church and what is the church meant to be doing?

Genesis 28:16

- ❖ Jacob awoke and said "surely YHWH is in this place...this is none other than the house of God, this is the gate of heaven"
- ❖ The house of God is the gate of heaven
- ❖ In **1 Tim.3:15** – the house of God is the church
- ❖ The church is to be the gate of heaven, to unlock heaven
- v.18** - Jacob took the **Stone** and set it up as a **Pillar** and poured **oil** on it
- ❖ Possibly it was the stone of an altar built by Abraham
- v.19** – Jacob called the place "Bethel" = "House of God"
- v.20-22** – Jacob called the Stone "God's house" and he became a tithing man on that revelation
- we tithe into the house of God, heaven opens to us
- that **Pillar** is the "**living Pillar, the foundation of truth**"
- when you see the church you should see Jesus, you should see God
- the church of God living pillar and foundation/ground of truth

Matthew 16:16

- ❖ Peter said by revelation "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God"
- v.18** – Jesus said He could now build His church on the **Rock** (a big stone)
- if you are built on that Rock you will grow up on the revelation of Jesus

We must confess the mystery of Godliness

We are to grow up to maturity so we can understand the mysteries
The greatest mystery of all is the mystery of God!!

Coming into the fullness of Christ

What is God's plan (His eternal purpose)?

Ephesians 1:9-10

- ❖ God has made known to us the mystery of His will
- ❖ In the dispensation of the fullness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ (things in heaven and earth)

V.17-23

- the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him
- the eyes of our understanding enlightened
- to know the hope of His calling, the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints
- to know the exceeding greatness of His power toward us
- He (Jesus) is seated at the right hand of God, far above all might and dominion, and every name that is named (He has all authority and power)

When we come into Christ we come out of darkness and into the kingdom of the Son of His love.

We have also been raised up and made to sit together with Christ in the heavenly places (Eph 2:6).

Jesus' name is above every other name (far above every false religious name and every governmental power).

v.22 – He put all under His feet

(**Under** – means to be subject to, in subordination, subservience, obedience)

- ❖ God gave Christ to be head over all
- ❖ He (the Head over all) has been given to the church
- ❖ If we remain in Christ we cannot lose. We will have the victory.

v.23 – The church is His body (the body of Christ)

- His body is the fullness of Him who fills all in all

This is an amazing reality.

Fullness – (WW Eph 3:19)

- Sc#4138 *pleroma* – full number, full complement, full measure, copiousness, plenitude, that which has been completed, describes a ship with full cargo and crew, describes a town with no empty houses

The body is the manifestation of the Messiah in the earth.

We are to come into the fullness of Christ.

Gen 1:28 – Be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth.

God will fill the earth through His body (the fullness of Him who fills all in all).

Colossians 1:18-19

- ❖ He (Christ) is the head of the body, the church

- ❖ In all things He has the pre-eminence “because all the fullness was pleased to dwell in Him (Christ).” (Literal Greek translation)
- ❖ God is all the fullness
- ❖ We as His body are the fullness of Christ
- ❖ All the fullness is pleased to dwell in the body of Christ

Colossians 2:9

- ❖ All the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily in Christ
- Godhead** = the divine essence of Godhood, the personality of God, the very state of being God
- v.10** - lit. – and having been filled (with that fullness) you are in Him

We are the church the body of Christ, the fullness of Him

How do we come into this fullness?

We need to be born again and baptised into Him.

- ❖ Baptised (immersed) in the name of Jesus the Messiah
- ❖ Immersed into the fullness of the Godhead

We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

This is how we come into the fullness of Messiah, how we experience all of Him.

Colossians 2:11-12

- ❖ the circumcision of Christ (buried with Him in baptism and raised with Him through faith in the working of God)
- ❖ in baptism we get placed into the fullness of the Godhead
- ❖ we grow into the understanding and revelation of what took place at our baptism
- ❖ What has been deposited in us will come out more and more as we grow in Christ

Ephesians 3:14-21 – How do we come into the fullness?

- ❖ Paul’s prayer for all the saints
 - 1) V.14 - we bow our knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
 - 2) v.15 – realise we have come into a family (we are family – minister in light of this reality)
 - 3) v.16 – we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit (strengthened with might in our inner man)
 - 4) v.17 – so that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith (by the Spirit that He has given – Messiah in us the hope of glory Col 1:27)
 - 5) being rooted and grounded in love – By Holy Spirit pouring out His love into our hearts as Christ is formed in us (**Rom.5:3-5**)
 - 6) v.18 – we need to be in fellowship in order to comprehend the love of God with all the saints – we need to stick together in fellowship to experience the love of God
 - 7) v.19 – to know the love of Christ

Know = to understand completely, to recognise and be acquainted with
This love passes human intellect. It goes against natural thinking.
- ❖ That you may be filled with **all the fullness of God**.

v.20 – He is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us

Ephesians 4:4-6

❖ one God and Father who is above all, through all and in you all

v.7 – grace is given according to the measure of the gift of Christ

John 1:16 – of His (Christ's) fullness we have all received, grace on top of grace

Christ is the gift. How much of Christ have you received?

Ephesians 4:8

❖ He led captivity captive and gave gifts to men – these gifts were held captive due to Adam's sin. These gifts were resident in Adam and would have been used by him to build up his family had he not sinned. Jesus came to release those gifts from captivity again!

v.9-10 – the one who descended also ascended far above the heavens, that He might fill all things – He fills all things through His Body (**Eph.1:23**)

- Jesus released gifts to men

v.11 – apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers

These 5 ministry gifts are relational gifts, grace coming from the fullness of Christ. These are ministered in the context of us being a family

- ❖ These gifts are for the equipping of the saints. We are all to be equipped with all these graces so we can build others up into the fullness of Christ
- ❖ For the work of ministry and the building up of the body of Christ
- ❖ Till we all come to the unity of the faith, to the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

May we grow up in all things into Him who is the Head.

Session 10
Paul Galligan

The Revelation of God Part 2

God came into the world, born of the virgin Mary

Confessedly, great is the mystery of Godliness
God was manifested in the flesh
Justified in the Spirit
Seen by angels
Preached among the Gentiles
Believed on in the world
Received up in glory

Philippians 2:7

❖ He appeared as a man

The Mystery of Christ

Ephesians 3:4

v.2 – Paul had received a dispensation (a big download) of grace

- it was given to him to come to know the mystery
- Paul had written about this mystery
- we are to understand the knowledge of the mystery of Christ

A "Mystery" is: something hidden, secret, God wants to reveal it and wants us to find out about it, it is openly revealed, we need grace

Ephesians 3:5

- ❖ this mystery was hidden
- ❖ but now it has been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets
- ❖ we need apostles and prophets to reveal this mystery
- ❖ denominational doctrine does not teach the knowledge of the mystery
- ❖ understanding the mystery changes and energizes us
- ❖ without apostles and prophets we will not understand the mystery
- ❖ apostles make disciples and through disciples you know if what you teach works
- ❖ disciples are raised up to walk with us
- ❖ understanding this mystery begins with us being born again, the mystery begins to open up to us, we are changed

This grace has especially been given by the Spirit to apostles and prophets to make known to the church

Colossians 1:25

- ❖ Paul became a minister of the church
- ❖ According to the "stewardship" from God
- ❖ This stewardship is from God

- ❖ We need a download, a commission from heaven
- ❖ This stewardship made Paul a minister
- ❖ The commission was to fulfil the word of God – it was a ministry of the Word
- ❖ Through the Word Paul was to make known the mystery
- ❖ This mystery was hidden from ages and generations – hidden since Adam sinned in the garden
- ❖ The mystery was in the garden, manifest in the tree of Life, but their eyes were darkened when they sinned
- ❖ People still look for the mystery outside of Christ, through secret societies, occult groups, false religions, even Christian religion can have false mysteries

1 Corinthians 2:6

- we speak wisdom among those who are mature
- it is not the wisdom of this age, not of university education, not of having degrees, not of human philosophies
- the mystery of Christ comes by the Spirit
- the wisdom of God is spoken in a mystery
- this mystery God ordained before the ages for our glory
- the devil did not understand the mystery
- what the devil meant for evil by killing Jesus, God planned for the saving of the world and the defeat of the devil!

What is the mystery?

Colossians 1:27

- ❖ all the saints are to know this mystery
- ❖ to the saints God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles
- ❖ "saints" are believers who are serious, many believers are not serious
- ❖ Disciples are serious, they are saints
- ❖ Are you ready to see the glory, are you ready for the covering to be lifted?
- ❖ The Glory is the eternal manifest Presence of God, that which emanates from the very Presence of God, glorious, good, powerful, awesome, magnificent...
- ❖ The mystery is "**Christ in you**"
- ❖ If Christ is in you, you have a hope in you that one day you, sooner or later, you will be filled with His glory, His life, as He grows you up to be able to handle the glory more and more consciously

How does Christ get into you?

John 3:1

- ❖ Nicodemus came to Jesus at night to talk
- v.2** - He said "Rabbi" = Teacher, a term of great respect
- ❖ Nicodemus recognized God was with Jesus
- v.3** – Jesus answered Nicodemus, "unless you are born again (from above) you cannot see the kingdom of God" – your eyes are veiled
- v.4** – Nicodemus is wanting to know the mystery but he is not getting it
- v.5** – "Unless one is born of water and the Spirit you cannot enter the kingdom of God"
- we need a second birth, by and in the Spirit

What is the process of being born again?

John 1:11-13

- ❖ Jesus was not received by the Jewish people, His own people
- ❖ But some did receive Him, and still to this day many are receiving Him
- ❖ As many as **received Him**
- ❖ To those ones He gave the right/authority/power to become children of God
- ❖ Even to those who believe in His name

1st step = believe in Jesus

2nd step = receive Jesus

Jesus comes in – the mystery of the glory of Christ came into you

- ❖ being born of God is having Jesus come to live inside of you
- ❖ people who believe in Jesus are saved
- ❖ But God's will for us is to be born again, to receive the living Jesus into our lives and we can grow
- ❖ The Glory is coming in our lives and will manifest by the look on your face

How is this mystery revealed?

Paul gives us the steps by showing us the work of the minister

Colossians 1:28

- a) preach Christ – "Him we preach"
- ❖ **1 Corinthians 9:16** – "woe is me if I do not preach the gospel"
- ❖ **Acts 5:41-42** – they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus the Christ/Messiah even after being beaten for preaching Christ
- ❖ **Acts 8:4-5** – those scattered by persecution went everywhere preaching the Word
- ❖ Philip preached Christ to Samaria
- ❖ **Romans 16:25** – we are established in the gospel through the...preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery...

b) Warn every man

- ❖ **2 Timothy 3:16-17** – all Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for i) doctrine ii) correction iii) reproof iv) instruction

c) Teach every man

d) In all wisdom

e) Present every man perfect in Messiah Jesus

- ❖ the goal is maturity, "let us go on to perfection" – **Heb.6:1-3**
- ❖ **Ephesians 4:11-13** – the perfecting of the saints...till we all come to the...a perfect Man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

Colossians 1:29

- ❖ To this Paul labours
- ❖ Striving according to His working (not his own efforts to a good job for Jesus)
- ❖ God works in us and He energises us to do it

If we come to know the mystery of Christ, we come to know God

Ephesians 3:8

- ❖ Paul had a good self-image
- ❖ He thought he was the lowest of the low, the most insignificant saint in the church
- ❖ Paul understood who he was and claimed no glory for himself
- ❖ "this grace was given" – he received a grace download
- ❖ He was given this grace to preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ/Messiah

v.9 – he wanted everyone to see what is the fellowship of the mystery

- coming into the fellowship of this mystery starts with being born again
- when we are born again we very often know when other people are born again
- look for the connections
- there is a fellowship of the mystery
- this mystery has been available in the earth since creation but it has been hidden
- Adam and Eve never discovered the mystery
- the mystery got lost, and people in tribal ceremonies and secret societies have tried to tap into it the wrong way
- it is only found in Christ

v.10

- spiritual warfare finally is entered into without having to throw a punch
- all we need to do is enter into the knowledge of the mystery of Christ
- as we grow up in Christ to know the mystery, the manifold wisdom of God is made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly realm
- as the glorious church rises up in the earth then those powers will come to nothing
- Jesus even made those powers for Himself (**Colossians 1:16**), to help the church grow up, so the church can overcome them

Final comments

Hebrews 5:12

- ❖ speaks of mature brethren, a mature people
- ❖ church will be victorious in this high level of spiritual warfare without having to punch because God has accomplished His eternal purpose in Christ Jesus (**Eph.3:11**)
- ❖ we are to look for the deeper Word, the word of righteousness
- ❖ **Ephesians 4:15** – speak the truth in love, do not lie
- ❖ **Ephesians 4:13** – we are to be looking to grow up into the perfect Man
- ❖ **Ephesians 5:26-27** – we are to be the glorious church without spot or wrinkle

Colossians 4:2-4

- ❖ continue and be vigilant in prayer with thanksgiving
- ❖ pray that God will open a door for the Word
- ❖ to speak the mystery of Christ
- ❖ to make it manifest as we ought to speak

Staying on Target

We need to know what the target is.

Habakkuk 2:14

- ❖ for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of Yahweh as the waters cover the sea
- ❖ This is God's purpose
- ❖ This is the target
- ❖ God has a plan in the earth
- ❖ God wants to use His people in the earth to fill the earth with the knowledge of His glory
- ❖ A witness in every corner of the earth

Romans 3:23

- ❖ for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God
- ❖ sin causes us to fall short of the glory of God
- ❖ The target is the glory
- ❖ Anything that stops us from hitting the target is sin (sin is missing the mark/target)

We need to learn how to live a lifestyle that brings us to the target of His glory.

Romans 14:23

- ❖ whatever is not from faith is sin
- ❖ if we are going to hit the glory, it must be done out of faith

Acts 2:42

- ❖ a foundational verse for how we conduct ourselves
- ❖ if we function this way, we can expect what the early church received
- ❖ they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayers

1. continuing steadfastly
2. apostles' doctrine
3. fellowship
4. breaking of bread
5. prayers

We need to have a commitment, an uncompromising attitude, to continue with Jesus in these 4 particular areas in Acts 2:42

Apostles' doctrine

1 Timothy 4:1

- the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons

The Apostles' doctrine is the faith. We need to continue steadfastly in the faith.
❖ Beware of doctrines that will take you away from the faith.

In the beginning, Eve listened to a doctrine of a demon (*Did God really say?*). It was a doctrine that brought doubt on the Word of God.

The apostles' doctrine is the Word of God. We need to continue steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine.

We need to know who we are listening to and where the doctrine is coming from. God asked Adam - *Who told you?*

Who are you listening to? Stick to the Word of God (the apostles' doctrine). Stay on target!

John 7:16-18

- ❖ Jesus said, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me."
- ❖ Jesus was accountable for the doctrine that He released. It came from the Father who sent Him.
- ❖ Jesus as the Apostle, came with the doctrine
- ❖ If you have a heart to do the will of God, then you will know concerning the doctrine whether it is from God or not.

1 Timothy 6:3

- the apostles' doctrine is wholesome words, the words of our Lord Jesus Christ
- it is the doctrine that accords with godliness, it produces a Godly lifestyle
- the doctrine that accords with God manifest in the flesh
- it reveals God to us

John 17:8

- ❖ Jesus said, "I have given to them the words that you have given Me".
- ❖ The apostles' doctrine is to be received
- ❖ The apostles' doctrine reveals that Jesus is a manifestation of the Father
- ❖ We are to continue in the apostles' doctrine (receiving unfolding revelation of who Jesus is)

John 17:20-22

- ❖ I pray for those who will believe in Me through their (the apostles') word
 - ❖ The apostles had received the word that Jesus had given them
- We need to believe in Jesus according to the apostles' word.
- v.21** – the result - that they all may be one just as Jesus and the Father are one
- When we believe, and continue in the apostles' doctrine, we become one
- v.22** – the glory which You gave Me I have given them
- apostles' doctrine brings us into the glory

Fellowship

1 John 1:1-4

- truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ
- The word of life

- This word of Life was manifested, came in the flesh
- When we receive the apostles' doctrine, we have fellowship in the apostles' doctrine
- The apostles' doctrine today is not bringing you new Scriptures, but revelation of what is written.
- Truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ
- our joy will be full – this is the fruit of being in this fellowship

v.5-7

- God is light
- When we walk in light, we have fellowship with one another
- walking in the light is so important in order for us to have fellowship with one another
- the blood works in the fellowship to cleanse us from all sin

Acts 2:44-45

- ❖ all who believed were together and had all things in common
- ❖ we see the functioning of true Christian community and fellowship
- ❖ they sold their possessions and goods and divided them among all, as anyone had need
- ❖ in their hearts they were together
- ❖ they did things together in agreement
- ❖ they functioned as a family (not just living independently)
- ❖ all of us should be stewarding what we have as not our own, stewarding things for the sake of Jesus and His body

This is fellowship – living as a community on a daily basis, in Christ

The whole world will know that we are Jesus' disciples by the love that we have for one another (the glory of God manifests).

We were created to be in fellowship.

Breaking of bread

Acts 2:46-47

- ❖ continuing daily with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house
- ❖ this is a lifestyle
- ❖ develop this as a lifestyle with your families

Genesis 14:18

- ❖ the first communion
- ❖ Melchizedek brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High
- ❖ Melchizedek came to Abram (the father of the faith)
- ❖ Melchizedek was a king and a priest. He gave Abram bread and wine and blessed him.
- ❖ Celebrating the victory that God had given Abram over his enemies
- ❖ A blessing to receive at this meal – the blessing of God Most High (**Heb 7:1-3** – king of righteousness, king of peace, priest of God Most High, without genealogy, no beginning of days, no end of life – a revelation of the Messiah Jesus)

Every time we break bread we can know that Jesus the Messiah is there. This is a dominion meal. We celebrate that Jesus has delivered all of our enemies into our hands. This is a powerful meal – breaking bread by faith.

1 Cor 11:26 – proclaiming the Lord's death until He comes

- a proclamation that Jesus has defeated the devil
- if we do this daily, we will be walking in victory

Prayers

Matthew 18:19-20

- ❖ praying in agreement, gathered in His name, Jesus is there in the midst
- ❖ our Father will do it
- ❖ we need to continue steadfastly in corporate prayer

Acts 12:1-4

- ❖ a powerful example of continuing in prayer
- ❖ Peter had been seized and arrested (kept by 16 men)
- ❖ The government of the day was interfering in the life of the church
- ❖ **V.5** - The church offered up constant prayer for Peter
- ❖ When the government comes against the church we are to pray to the higher authority
- ❖ Pray for God's kingdom and will to be done on the earth as in heaven
- ❖ **V.6-11**- Peter was miraculously released
- ❖ **V.12** – Peter went to the house where he knew they would be gathered together praying – Peter knew there was a church functioning steadfastly in prayer
- ❖ **V.20-24** – Herod was eaten by worms and died (struck by an angel of the Lord)
- ❖ the word of God grew and multiplied
- ❖ governmental leaders who come against the church need to watch out
- ❖ there are amazing effects when the church of God prays
- ❖ the result of prayer was the Word of God grew, there was freedom for the Word to grow in the society

They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine, fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayers.

Stay on target!

The Tabernacle of Testimony

John 5:39

- ❖ You search the Scriptures
- ❖ These Scriptures testify of Me (Jesus)

v.46

- If you believed Moses, you would believe Me (Jesus) because He wrote about Me

The Tabernacle was a dwelling for God with His people

It is a picture of Christ

God wants the full expression of Himself released and manifest in the church

He wants to fill us, His church, individually and corporately

This Tabernacle of Testimony shows us how God wants to indwell us

Exodus 40:33-34

- ❖ When Tabernacle was finished God filled the Tabernacle with Glory
- ❖ This is what God wants to do in our lives

Revelation 21:3

- ❖ God's plan "Behold the Tabernacle of God is with men"
- ❖ He will dwell with them
- ❖ God Himself will be with them
- ❖ Emphasis is on God coming to be with us not us going to be with Him

Exodus 25:8-9

- ❖ Let them make Me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them = **purpose of Tabernacle**
- ❖ Make it according to the pattern I show you = **according to God's instructions**

3 sections

a) Outer Court

b) Holy Place

c) Holiest of all

There is only one entrance

- ❖ **John 10:7,9** – Jesus said "I Am the Door"
- ❖ **Acts 4:12** – no other name except Jesus, He is the only way to be saved and enter in
- ❖ **John 14:6** – Jesus said "I Am the Way....no one comes to Father but by Me
- ❖ **John 1:12-13** – we need to believe in Jesus and receive Him and then we are given right to become children of God, being born of God, born again
- ❖ Now we begin our journey and we are predestined to look like our Father, predestined for Christ to manifest in us! – **Eph.1:4-5**

Each furnishing is testifying to the reality of what Jesus has accomplished

1. Altar of burnt sacrifice

- ❖ made of bronze = judgement on sin
- ❖ **Exodus 29:38-39** – lambs sacrificed continually morning and evening, 2 lambs a day
- ❖ **Hebrews 10:11-12** – This was pointing to the Man who offered one sacrifice for sins forever, no more need of blood animal sacrifice which could never take away sins
- ❖ **Sin has been judged forever**
- ❖ This Man is now at the right hand of God, it stands forever
- ❖ **John 1:29** – John the Baptist had revelation of this “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”
- ❖ **1 Peter 1:18-21** – redeemed with precious blood of Jesus Christ, He was foreordained before the foundation of world but manifest in these last times for us, we can now receive the reality of what Jesus accomplished

What this means for us

This is the pattern for Christ to come and indwell us

Colossians 1:13-14

- ❖ He has delivered us from power of darkness and conveyed us into kingdom of Son of His love
 - ❖ When we meet Jesus at the altar we are taken from one kingdom into another
 - ❖ In Him we then receive redemption and forgiveness of sins
- v.21** – once we were enemies in our minds and separated from God, unable to fellowship with Him
- now we are reconciled to Himself
 - relationship restored
- v.22** – reconciled in Body of His flesh thru death, now able to present holy and blameless and above reproach in His sight
- put your faith in Jesus, in His death and resurrection, you will be holy and blameless

Colossians 2:14-15

- ❖ wiped out handwriting of requirements against us, nailed to Cross, taken out of the way
- ❖ disarmed principalities and powers...triumphing over them in the Cross
- ❖ Satan is the Accuser, likes to accuse and condemn us
- ❖ No accusation can now stand when our faith is in Jesus and His sacrifice – Satan is disarmed

b) Bronze Laver

Exodus 30:18-19

Purpose of laver = for washing

Aaron and sons had to wash their hands and feet

This is a pattern foreshadowing the fulfilment in Christ

What is the washing speaking of?

- ❖ Baptism, Jesus commanded baptism (**Mark16:16**)
- ❖ Is a crucial part of our journey and a foundation of our faith

Romans 6:3-5

- ❖ baptised into Christ/Messiah Jesus
- ❖ into His death
- ❖ buried with Him
- ❖ raised from the dead by glory of Father
- ❖ identification with Jesus in death, burial and resurrection
- ❖ an immersion in Christ Jesus

v.7 – certainly we shall be in the likeness of the resurrection

- raised in newness of life
- this is a reality that takes place

We always need to remind ourselves of our baptism, we are no longer slaves to sin, but free from sin, no longer obliged to obey sin

Where has Christ been raised to?

- ❖ because we have been united with Him in likeness of His resurrection

Ephesians 1:20-22

- ❖ Jesus raised and seated at right hand of God far above all principality and power, all under His feet
- ❖ We have been raised and positioned with Him (**Ephesians 2:5-6**)
- ❖ We are seated with Christ, no longer slaves of sins, we have been immersed into Him

Baptism also speaks of a change of garments for us

Galatians 3:27-28

- ❖ if baptised in Christ = put on Christ, clothed in Christ/Messiah
- ❖ now neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free....all one in Christ
- ❖ this is a new identity, not regarding ourselves after the flesh, no longer indigenous or white or any other race
- ❖ we all put on Christ, one identity
- ❖ no room for division

Baptism places us into the Body of Messiah

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

- The Body of Christ is a many-membered Body
- we have all been baptised by One Spirit into One Body
- we now all drink into One Spirit
- we are placed into the many-membered Body of Messiah
- now we are positioned in the Body of Messiah, to receive His fullness

This is the pattern of how God comes to indwell His people!

Brazen laver also speaks of washing of water by the word

Ephesians 5:26-27

- ❖ Jesus is sanctifying and cleansing His church by the washing of the water of the Word
- ❖ now we are being transformed, washed and cleansed

Now we are to enter into the holy place (only for priests)

- ❖ **priests had to be consecrated, washed and anointed**
- ❖ in New Testament we are all kings and priests to our God
- ❖ blood and altar, washed at laver and we need anointing of Holy Spirit to enter Holy Place
- ❖ Outer Court was under natural light, natural heavens
- ❖ No light of sun came into Tabernacle, coming out of world to be led by Spirit

We need to receive the infilling of Holy Spirit through laying on of hands

- ❖ This is the pattern for individual and corporate indwelling
- ❖ **Acts 2:38** – these foundations were laid when Peter preached Jesus – Repentance, faith, baptism and receiving Holy Spirit

Inside Holy Place

1. Table of showbread Exodus 25:30

- ❖ set Showbread on Table before Me always
- ❖ continually before the Lord
- ❖ "Showbread" = lit. "Bread of the Face", it is the Table of His Presence
- ❖ There were pitchers and vessels on Table as well
- ❖ We see picture of Bread and Cup
- ❖ Pointing to the Table of the Lord

In Holy Place we see picture of the functioning or lifestyle of the church

- ❖ **Acts 2:42** – early church continued steadfastly in the breaking of Bread
- ❖ **A lifestyle of partaking of body and blood of Jesus**

John 6:35 – bread speaks of feeding on Jesus – "I Am the Bread of Life" – we shall never hunger or thirst

v.57 – if we feed on Jesus we will live because of Him, partaking of His Word
- nothing else satisfies
- we were all created for this relationship

Matthew 4:4

- ❖ We do not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from mouth of God
- ❖ We live by hearing His life-giving Word

This is our lifestyle – continuing steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine every day
(Acts 2:42)

- ❖ we will be transformed by doing this

The Table also speaks of discipleship

1 John 2:14

- when we entered Tabernacle we were born again and on journey of maturity to look like our Father
- Young men, who have grown from babies to children to young men, are strong because of the Word abiding in them, and they have overcome the wicked one
- as we feed on Jesus we will find ourselves overcoming and walking in victory
- it will then come out of us to others (**Colossians 3:16**)
- **2 Timothy 2:15** – be diligent to present yourself approved to God...able to rightly divide the Word of truth, not led away from apostles' doctrine, but in the lifestyle

The Lampstand

- ❖ opposite the Table of Showbread

Exodus 27:20

- ❖ pure oil of pressed olives for the light = speaks of anointing oil
- ❖ lamp is to burn continually
- ❖ oil needed to keep lamp burning continually
- ❖ we need the Spirit, we need illumination on the Word (the Light of Lamp coming over the Table of Showbread)
- ❖ we need the Spirit for revelation and understanding of the Word

Revelation 1:20

- ❖ Scripture interprets Scripture
- ❖ Lampstand speaks of the Church
- ❖ Jesus Himself said this
- ❖ 7 churches speaking of the complete or mature church

Revelation 2:1

- ❖ there is One who walks in the midst of the 7 lampstands
- ❖ Jesus Himself is in the midst of His church, His Body
- ❖ We cannot be the church without Him

Matthew 18:20

- ❖ when 2 or 3 gather in Jesus' name, "I Am there in the midst of them"

Exodus 25:31

- ❖ Lampstand all made from One piece of hammered gold
- ❖ There is One church!!
- ❖ We are of His flesh and of His bones (**Eph.5:30**)
- ❖ No division, same identity
- ❖ **Eph.4:4-6** – One Body, One Spirit...
- ❖ **We continue steadfastly in fellowship in the Spirit with the Father and with His Son**

Altar of Incense

- ❖ representing the offering prayer, intercession and worship before God

Psalms 141:2

- ❖ let our prayer to You be as incense

- ❖ prayer is incense
- continue steadfastly in prayer (Acts 2:42)**

Revelation 5:8

- ❖ incense speaks of the "prayers of the saints"
- ❖ God responds to the incense offered to Him
- ❖ Prayer offered continually to God changes things as He acts on our behalf

We are in the Spirit in the Holy Place

Romans 8:22-23, 26-29

- ❖ there is intercession in the Spirit
- ❖ even in creation there is an intercession
- ❖ Through our intercession God works all things together for good, His purpose is to conform us into the image of His Son
- ❖ Intercession is to bring forth sons in the earth

This is the church of God living the lifestyle, continuing to grow, receiving revelation and wisdom and understanding, interceding before the Throne

Behind the Veil

The Holy of Holies

- ❖ originally this was where the High Priest went alone once a year to atone for himself and then the people
- ❖ He could only go in there with blood

Hebrews 9:7-8

- ❖ the way into Holiest of all was not yet revealed while first Tabernacle was standing
- ❖ first one was symbolic, testifying of Jesus
- ❖ first Tabernacle not standing now, the way into Holiest is now manifest!!

v.11 – Christ came as High Priest of good things to come

- He came with greater and more perfect Tabernacle
- not of this creation, not humanly made
- this is a reality in the Spirit

v.12 – Jesus went in with His own blood, not the blood of animals

- He entered once for all
- He has obtained eternal redemption for us

Matthew 27:51

- ❖ the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom
- ❖ earth quaked and rocks split
- ❖ resurrection power of God was being released
- ❖ no longer any veil or separation between Holy and Holiest

Hebrews 4:16, 10:19-22

- ❖ we are to come boldly into Throne of Grace, by blood of Jesus
- 10:20** – through veil of His flesh

- ❖ Jesus has made way for us to come boldly into Holiest of all
- ❖ We will find grace and mercy

Outer court – bronze to judge sin

Mercy Seat – blood is there for grace and mercy

Romans 1:5 – grace and apostleship is given to us for obedience to faith among all nations

- ❖ As Body grows we receive enablement to go forth in His commission

Exodus 25:22

- ❖ above mercy seat, between wings of cherubim, God spoke with Moses
- ❖ This is the place where God speaks from
- ❖ Our Father wants to reveal more of His heart to us as we grow to be like Him
- ❖ He wants us to understand His purpose in the earth
- ❖ He wants us to understand the deeper wisdom, for us individually and corporately

This is the Tabernacle of Testimony

- ❖ testifying to how we come into that life with Jesus
- ❖ of how He comes to dwell in us in His fullness

The Ark of Covenant

3 items inside

a) Tablets of Stone

- Hebrews 8:7-13

- before Jesus came the law was something external, on stone, to be observed externally
- now God promises to put His laws in our mind and written on our heart
- the corrupt sinful nature dealt with in baptism is replaced with God's nature, His laws in our hearts, we are inclined to obey Him now
- He is our God and we belong to Him
- we all know God from least to greatest, all of us can have intimate relationship with Father
- sins and lawless deeds are remembered no more, they no longer come before our Father's mind

b) Pot of Manna

- Manna was kept from the time Israel was in the wilderness
- this for us is representing the "hidden manna"

Revelation 2:17

- ❖ overcomers will be given hidden manna to eat
- ❖ in Holiest we can partake of hidden manna, hidden wisdom, the mystery (**1 Corinthians 2:6-7**), which was ordained for our glory before the ages
- ❖ God is revealing this mystery by His Spirit (**v.10**)
- ❖ In the place of the very Presence, the Glory, there is a hidden wisdom, hidden manna, that He wants us to partake of
- ❖ He wants us to look like our Father

- ❖ He wants us to understand all of God's eternal purpose that He accomplished through Jesus
- ❖ All the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of YHWH (**Hab.2:14**)
- ❖ When we partake and feed on this hidden manna it is then to be revealed by the church to principalities and powers (**Ephesians 3:9-10**)
- ❖ We will see the reality of **Ephesians 1:22-23**, His Body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all, the glory of God fully revealed and manifest through His Body in the earth

c) Aaron's Rod that budded

Numbers 17:5, 8

- ❖ there were complaints against Aaron that He should be the only one able to minister to God
- ❖ Moses told all the houses of Israel to put a rod before YHWH
- ❖ God said the Rod that buds is the One that I have chosen
- ❖ The Rod of Aaron had sprouted, blossomed and produced ripe almonds
- ❖ This was a testimony that God had chosen Aaron
- ❖ For us this represents that we have been chosen and have authority to come before YHWH
- ❖ We are a chosen generation (**1 Peter 2:9**), a royal priesthood
- ❖ Each one of us and corporately have the right to come before Him and minister to Him

Revelation 5:9-10

- ❖ We have been redeemed to be "kings and priests" and to reign on the earth
- ❖ Ruling and reigning coming forth in the earth
- ❖ We are the Body of Messiah, the Body of the King

Jeremiah spoke of the Branch coming forth to bring righteousness and justice in the earth

This is the Tabernacle of Testimony!

The Way of worship

Some background

- ❖ in many nations we have been, we have experienced times of worship
- ❖ we have experienced where everyone comes into a holy place of worship and then suddenly a jubilant praise song begins, breaking the worship everyone had entered into
- ❖ a lot of worship goes from being in a holy place, to being cut off and going into the outer court again

This is not a rule or law but to give us an expectation of what the Holy Spirit wants to do with us and bring us into in worship

There is a pattern, a place we are going in worship

The tabernacle gives us a good pattern of this

The Tabernacle

- i) **Outer Court** –
 - Enter at the Gate – Jesus is the Door and the Way (**John 10:9, 14:6**)
 - Meet Jesus ministering salvation to us by blood and baptism
- ii) **Holy Place** – only way in is by the Holy Spirit, we change focus, place of light and revelation, God's people, Lord's Table, prayer and worship
- iii) **Most Holy Place**
 - ❖ this is where we are coming to in worship
 - ❖ there is a destination
 - ❖ it is in the glory of God

1. Beginning the journey

We come into the outer court

Psalm 100:4

- ❖ we enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise
- ❖ we should be excited to enter in

Psalm 122:1

- ❖ We are to be glad when we come into the Presence of God
- ❖ Sometimes it is a choice to be glad, we choose to praise, we choose to give thanks

Hebrews 13:15

- ❖ let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise
- ❖ it costs something

Psalm 116:17

- ❖ offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving
- ❖ we need to put aside what is burdening us to choose to give thanks

Forget about yourself, concentrate on Him and worship Him
It is not about us, it is about the One we are worshipping

John 10:7,9 – Jesus is the Door

John 14:6 – We come through Jesus

Hebrew words

Thanksgiving – SC #8426 "towdah", *an extension of the hand, adoration, spec. a choir of worshipers. It is ok to be animated, move your hands, jump, shout, sing.*

Translated as: thanksgiving, praise, thanks, confession (Heb.13:15 – the fruit of our lips) – not a time to be silent, but speaking, using your voice

Confession: also has to do with dealing with anything in our lives which is sinful. This will block us from God's Presence if not confessed

Joshua 7:19, Ezra 10:11, Towdah: used for confessing sin and repenting for it

Psalm 24:3

❖ who may ascend into the hill of YHWH? Who may stand in His holy place?

v.4 – the answer = he who has clean hands, a pure heart, and not sworn deceitfully

- deal with any blockages by confessing and repenting

Praise – SC #1984 Hb. – "halal"

1 Chronicles 23:30

- to stand every morning to thank and to **praise** YHWH, and likewise every evening

Word Wealth in Spirit Filled Life Bible – "to praise, thank, rejoice, boast about someone, is the root from which "hallelujah" comes from. "Hallelujah" is a command (all of you must praise YAH). Halal usually conveys the idea of speaking or singing about the glories, virtues, or honour of someone or something

SC# 7623 Hb – "Shabach"

Psalm 63:3

❖ my lips shall **praise** you

means: to command praise, to adore, to glory in something

SC# 8416 Hb – "Tehillah"

Psalm 100:4

❖ we enter His courts with **praise**

Means: a celebration, a lauding of someone praiseworthy, to lift up with honour, praise and exaltation of God, songs of admiration, a praise, a psalm, a song

We meet with Jesus in the outer court, we acknowledge the power of the blood sacrifice, we give thanks and praise focusing on Jesus for all His goodness toward us

Many people remain in the outer court but there is a deeper place to go in God

2. Entering the Holy Place

This is the realm of the Holy Spirit

The priest has to be clothed in clean linen garments to enter into this place

The linen garments speak of His righteousness (**Revelation 19:8**)

We have the Spirit of God in us and we can enter in

We acknowledge and welcome the Holy Spirit

We come humbly

Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to His disciples – **Luke 24:49** – we are to be clothed with power from on high

Acts 1:8 – we receive the power of the Holy Spirit and we enter this realm

In holy place we are priests

1 Peter 2:5 – a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus

- we are totally focused on God

John 4:23-24

❖ true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth

❖ the Father seeks such to worship

❖ God is Spirit and those worshiping Him are to worship in spirit and truth

In this spiritual dimension, spiritual gifts can manifest

1 Corinthians 12:8-10

- these gifts are for any member of the Body who have the Holy Spirit

- word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, gifts of healings, working miracles, prophecy, discerning spirits, tongues and interpreting tongues

- these gifts are to build up the body

- we are to give time to allow the Holy Spirit to move

Revelation 19:10 – the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy

❖ prophecy is a significant gift in this realm of worship bringing exhortation, comfort and edification

❖ not a time for personal prophecy but words to exalt God, focused on Him, adoring Him

❖ Lampstand can represent the prophetic word coming forth

Table of Showbread, the Lord's Table is in the realm of worship in the Spirit

❖ The Table of the Lord is part of our worship

❖ If we are ministering the Lord's Table we must learn to administer it in the context of the worship we are in

❖ This is all opening us up to help us receive the Word

We come to altar of incense

❖ it is right before the ark and in the New Covenant there is no veil

❖ we have direct access to the Throne of grace in the Holy of Holies

As we progress further in worship we are opening more and more for the Word

At the altar we make Spirit-led prayers in the context of worship

Revelation 8:3

- ❖ our prayers are as incense
- ❖ we can be offering up those prayers in context of Spirit-led worship

"Worship" – SC#7812 Hb

Psalm 99:5

- ❖ **worship** at His footstool

Means: to bow, to stoop, to bow down before someone in an act of submission or reverence, to worship, to fall or bow down when paying homage to God

- ❖ we can come with nothing but the offering of ourselves before His Throne
- ❖ this is the realm of worship entering the Holy of Holies
- ❖ fully focusing on God, our Father
- ❖ This is the realm of Father, the realm of Glory

3. We enter the Holy of Holies

- we are singing of the Blood, but in a different way to the outer court
- we enter because of the Blood that is on the Mercy Seat
- Many of Rhoda's songs bring us here

Revelation 4:1-2 – we see a door open in the heavens

- ❖ we come into the heavenly realm
- ❖ A voice says "come up here"
- ❖ We are called up into another realm, another level
- ❖ John began to get amazing revelations in this place
- ❖ We need to be looking for this door

Revelation 5:9

- ❖ they sang a new song
- ❖ new songs come forth from this place
- ❖ this can be a song in the Spirit, it flows out

Revelation 5:9-10, 12-14

- ❖ we honour the Lamb
- ❖ worthy is the Lamb
- ❖ this is the worship happening in the heavenly realm
- ❖ the result = we fall down and worship

We come to the Mercy Seat

Exodus 25:22

- ❖ This is the Most Holy Place
- ❖ There God will meet with us and speak with us from above the mercy seat between the two cherubim
- ❖ Do you have an expectation that God wants to speak with you in a time of worship
- ❖ In worship here we come to hear the voice
- ❖ There comes a time where there is nothing more for us to say, we can only fall down and worship at His feet

Revelation 8:1

- ❖ silence in heaven for half an hour
- ❖ everything stopped

- ❖ He is so awesome
- ❖ God begins to minister to us, speak to us, we need to simply hear, be in the rest

Out of this place the Glory is revealed
Out of this place the Glory is released, the Word is released
Out from this place we can go out to walk in His ways and in His will

There is a progression

Come with an expectation we are going somewhere, we are on a journey
The worship leader has the responsibility of leading us on that journey, having a vision of where we are going
We as God's people need guidance
The Worship leader needs to be conscious of where the people are at to help bring people on to the next place in God
Worship leaders need to be listening to the Holy Spirit for what songs, being willing to change order of songs prepared as the Spirit leads

Exhortation

The key to entering in is the Holy Spirit
We need this relationship with God by His Spirit
We worship in Spirit and truth
When we are clothed with Holy Spirit then we can enter that dimension

John 16:13 – Holy Spirit will guide us into the truth, direct us
Ask for more of the Holy Spirit in your life

Revelation 1:10 – we must be in the Spirit on the Lord's Day

Revelation 4:2 – immediately I was in the Spirit

Holy Spirit will reveal the Father to us

In all this we are being transformed to be more and more like Him

(2 Corinthians 3:16-18)

Apostolic Company

The apostolic company is a band of disciples.

- ❖ a group of disciples who are walking together whole heartedly to fulfil the commission (**Matthew 28:18-20**)

Romans 1:5

- ❖ through Him (Christ) we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name
- ❖ an apostolic company has nations in their heart – to bring them to the obedience of the faith
- ❖ People who are following Jesus with all their heart

A company is a family of people in God, a community in Christ

Examples in Scripture

NOAH

Genesis 6:7-10

- ❖ Noah found grace in the eyes of Yahweh
- ❖ We have also received grace in our generation
- ❖ V.9 – Noah walked with God
- ❖ Noah begot 3 sons (begotten after his own likeness)
- ❖ V.13-14 – God gives the command of what Noah is to do (apostleship/commission) – He had grace and apostleship

Genesis 7:1

- ❖ Noah led his household well
- ❖ Noah had some disciples, he was a father
- ❖ Noah led an apostolic company – being for the salvation of the whole world

Abraham

Genesis 12:1-3

- ❖ Get out of your country and from your father's house
- ❖ I will make you a great nation
- ❖ In you all the families of the earth will be blessed
- The apostolic company is the forming of a nation (**1 Peter 2:9** – a holy nation)
- Abraham would be the father of that nation

Genesis 14:14

- ❖ Lot and all that he had was taken captive (v.12)
- ❖ Abram armed his 318 trained servants who were born in his own house
- ❖ Abram had a very large company with him
- ❖ Abram was a good father – 318 trained servants (disciples), they knew how to go to war

Trained – Heb #2593 *kaw-neek*

Trained, instructed, tried (tested), experienced, initiated, that is practised

2 Tim 3:16 – disciples need to be able to receive instruction

- all Scripture is inspired of God and is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness

1 John 2:14

- Young men are strong because the word of God abides in them and they have overcome the wicked one

- Abram had young men

Initiated into the company (committed and submitted), joined in heart

Practised – **Heb 5:13-14**

- those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil

This is the company that Abram was raising.

Abram was a discipler, raising and training young men

Institutional churches don't raise up and father young men.

Abram took responsibility to train and instruct the young men, he initiated them into service

Genesis 18:17-19

- Yahweh did not hide from Abraham what He was doing

- Yahweh knew Abraham in order that he might command his children and his household after him

- Abraham had his company in order

- He commanded them to keep the way of Yahweh

- Abraham was showing the pattern

- He was a leader by example

1 Corinthians 11:1 – imitate me as I also imitate Christ

- Abraham's company was able to follow the way that he was walking

The apostolic company is the assembly, the congregation

David

1 Samuel 16:11-13

- God is anointing and raising apostles in our day

- David was anointed by Samuel with kingly anointing

- David was raised up and he was anointed to fight in battle

Sons are to be raised who can be planted into the world

1 Samuel 18:5, 14, 30

- the characteristics of an apostolic leader

- David behaved wisely wherever he went

- David did not get a rebellious attitude towards the religious institution, the kingdom of Saul

- David did not rebel, he went wherever Saul sent him
- Yahweh was with him
- David had a submitted attitude, he was not after his own thing
- he did not touch the Lord's anointed, but trusted God
- David learnt to honour the anointing and not take matters into his own hands
- he developed faith and patience

1 Samuel 22:1-2

- David fled and escaped to the cave of Adullam
- his whole household went with him
- v.2 – everyone in distress, in debt, and everyone who was discontented (bitter of soul) gathered to him
- David became captain over them (400 men with him)
- David had to learn how to comfort them, provide for them
- David had to teach them
- David had a company that he began to train
- he was being persecuted from place to place, but God kept on delivering them
 - David was able to bring them together to be a functioning army and community

2 Samuel 2:3-4

- David brought up the men who were with him
- they anointed David king over the house of Judah
- David starts to enter the inheritance
- to this company of people, God was going to give the kingdom
- Today, God wants to give the kingdom to a company who have been trained and raised up

Jesus

Hebrews 3:1 – Jesus is our **Apostle** and High Priest

- ❖ Jesus was sent with the authority of the Father
- ❖ He raised up a company around Him

Matthew 4:17-22

- Jesus said, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"
- He called the disciples to follow Him
- fishermen who were looking for what God was doing in their day
- they joined the Apostle of our confession – Christ Jesus

Jesus came to raise up disciples.

- There were at least 4 fishermen, a true Israelite, a tax collector, a zealot
 - Jesus had a mixed bunch that became His company
- Are you with Jesus the Apostle?
- He disciples, He trains and He sends

Luke 10:1

- ❖ Jesus had more than the 12
- ❖ He appointed 70 others and sent them out 2 by 2

- ❖ At least 82 disciples
- John 6:66** – many disciples turned back and followed Jesus no more
Jesus will test us to see if we are genuine. If we have genuine hearts, we stay committed even when it gets difficult. (John 6:67)

Peter

Acts 1:14-15

- ❖ these all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication
- ❖ altogether about 120
- ❖ Peter, with the help of the 11, is leading the apostolic company

Acts 4:13

- ❖ they saw the boldness of Peter and John (uneducated and untrained men)
- ❖ they realised that they had been with Jesus
- ❖ Jesus is in the midst of apostolic company (through the apostles that He has raised)

- ❖ What matters is that we have been with Jesus

v.23 – and being let go they went to their own companions

Peter knew where to go to find his companions.

John 15:13-16 – we are Jesus' friends (someone who does what Jesus says)

We are all disciples. The apostolic company is a band of disciples who are relating to Jesus the Apostle.

The apostolic company in fulfilment

Revelation 14:1-5

- ❖ v.1 – a Lamb standing on Mount Zion and with Him 144 000
- ❖ we have come to Mt Zion, we are seated with Him (**Heb. 12:22, Eph.2:6**)
- ❖ we have His name on our foreheads (the character and nature of God manifest in our life)
- ❖ there is a great company with Jesus
- ❖ v.2 – worship going on amongst the company
- ❖ those who had been redeemed from the earth – singing a new song
- ❖ v.4 – these ones do not have a divided heart – fully devoted
(2 Cor 11:2 – the church presented to Christ as a chaste virgin)
 - they follow the Lamb wherever He goes
 - redeemed from among men
 - v.5 – they speak the pure word of God, they speak the truth in love

This is the apostolic company!

You join by saying yes to Jesus and receiving the apostles that He sends.

Session 15
Nicholas Jackson

Church in the house

People have moved away from the way that the church initially functioned. Even at the time of the writing of the New Testament people were already moving away from the Biblical pattern.

Meeting in dedicated church buildings was first recorded in the 2nd century

Some understanding of the word "church"

Kryakon (Gk – from which English word *church* came)

- Referred to those places where the people would go to worship God

The English word *church* is not a good translation of the Greek word *ecclesia*. *Ecclesia* does not mean a church building it means an assembly of citizens.

- ❖ a popular assembly of citizens
- ❖ they formed the government of that time

Matt 16:18 – upon this rock I will build my ecclesia (an assembly of citizens of the kingdom of heaven – a governing body bringing forth the will of God on the earth)

In the New Testament we see the church meeting primarily in houses.
(Sometimes publicly in buildings for the purpose of training - **Acts 19** – the school of Tyrannus)

This is how the church functioned on a day to day basis.

God's vision for His people

Zechariah 8:1-5

- ❖ a picture of revival (God in the midst of a city)

The church meeting in houses brings us back to reality.

In our minds we have been 'going' to church.

God wants to break us out of this.

People need to be equipped to reach out and disciple people where they are.

We need to come back to the apostolic pattern (see where and how they met).

We are the ecclesia. Let's start functioning as the ecclesia, even on a daily basis.
Meeting in the houses – a non-manufactured environment (this causes us to rely on the anointing)

Jesus loves being in the midst of real people (authentic relationships developing).

- There are greater pastoral requirements when meeting in the house (more effective).

- It is families, children, people from all walks of life meeting together

- learning to grow in true fellowship as a family

Mark 1:29

- ❖ Jesus did a lot of ministry in the house

- ❖ When he went into the synagogues He challenged religious mindsets
- ❖ Jesus entered the house of Simon and Andrew
- ❖ Simon's wife's mother was sick with a fever
- ❖ Jesus healed her and she got up and immediately served them

Jesus healed the sick in the house.

v.32 – they brought to Him all who were sick and demon-possessed (this took place at the house of Simon and Andrew)

- Jesus healed and delivered those who came to Him

Mark 2:1

- ❖ Jesus was in the house
- ❖ Immediately many gathered together
- ❖ Jesus preached the Word

The Word is preached in the house.

We are free to preach in the open air and in the houses. This is what Jesus did. (Even in the 1700s it was such a break through to get out of the church building to preach in the open air.)

v.4-5 – forgiveness of sins and healing takes place in the house

Mark 2:14-16

- ❖ Levi (Matthew) invited Jesus back to his house
- ❖ Tax collectors, sinners and Jesus all in the house
- ❖ Eating and drinking (fellowship) taking place in the house

Greater fellowship and interaction takes place in the house. Sharing a meal together provides a wonderful environment for people to talk and fellowship.

v.17 – Jesus loved to be with real people who needed help

There is a reality that when there is a group of people meeting together and having the Lord's Table the church is established.

Acts 2:46

- ❖ breaking bread from house to house on a daily basis
- ❖ we are authorised by the Lord Jesus to remember Him and partake of Him in the house
- ❖ they continued to meet in the public place and from house to house
- ❖ the Lord added daily those who were being saved

There was a witnessing community.

When breaking bread in the house, you are inviting Jesus to be there in the midst with you.

Let your house be a place where Jesus is honoured in the breaking of bread.

Luke 10:5-9

- ❖ in context of sending out the 70
- ❖ do not go from house to house
- ❖ find a house that receives you and then base yourself there

- ❖ these were Jesus' instructions
- ❖ trained disciples sent out to plant the church in the house

More people are able to be reached and connect in when we meet in the houses. Cell groups are different to house churches.

Cell groups don't release the church to actually reach their community – still under their denomination. In general they are not able to celebrate the Lord's Table.

Planting house churches raises more ministers who are sent and released to function rather than cell group leaders staying under a denomination

Acts 2:42 – the early church continued in the apostles' doctrine, fellowship, the breaking of bread and prayers

The goal is (through making disciples) to plant multiple house churches reaching out in their areas.

The church is to take responsibility for their community.

It is so much easier to reach out in our communities when we meet together in the house.

1 Corinthians 14:26

- whenever you come together each of you has a psalm, a teaching, a tongue, a revelation, an interpretation
- each one able to have a go and contribute
- everyone becomes a significant member
- the goal is to disciple, train and send (not just fill up a building)
- meeting in the houses enables each one to contribute and grow

Acts 5:42

- ❖ daily in the temple and in every house they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus the Christ

When persecution comes, the church can still flourish, meeting together in houses.

In the early church, the religious leaders commanded the apostles not to preach in Jesus' name, but they continued daily publicly and from house to house.

Acts 10:24-30

- ❖ Cornelius prayed in the house
- ❖ Peter and the team were received in the house
- ❖ Peter preached, the Holy Spirit was released and they were baptised in the house (**v.44-48**)

Acts 20:7-12

- ❖ meeting in the house
- ❖ a man, thought to be dead, was taken up alive
- ❖ The Breaking of Bread and apostolic doctrine was shared in the house

Acts 28:30-31

- ❖ Paul dwelt 2 whole years in his own rented house and received all who came to him
- ❖ Preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ

What is your daily activity as a household? Is it the functioning ecclesia?
If you dwell on your own you can invite others over or fellowship over the phone.

Do you have a goal that one day you might be able to host the ecclesia in your house?

This is something that no government can stop.

The church can be ongoing in its expression when meeting from house to house.

The goal is:

- ❖ multiplication of disciples meeting in houses
- ❖ hearing the apostles' doctrine
- ❖ true fellowship (meeting each others needs)
- ❖ breaking bread regularly
- ❖ a place where people are able to pray together regarding God's purposes
- ❖ the nurturing of new converts
- ❖ disciple and train believers

The Fulfilment of the Feasts of Israel

A Summary of the Old Covenant

3 important components

a) The Law – Hb. "Torah" = teaching, instruction

Deuteronomy 32:2

- ❖ Moses referred to his "teaching", the torah, as dropping like the rain, dew and raindrops on tender herb
 - ❖ Let us grow up and receive the teaching of Moses
- How did Jesus and Paul summarise the teaching of Moses?
- ❖ Love God
 - ❖ Love your neighbour
 - ❖ It is to set us free to live God's way
 - ❖ We could not do it because of the problem of sin

b) The Tabernacle

- God gave clear instructions to Moses on how to build the Tabernacle
- The Tabernacle is about worshiping the Father in Spirit and truth
- It teaches us the way of worship

c) The Feasts of YHWH

Why did God give us the feasts?

They are God's prophetic calendar, they show us the way from the beginning of our walk with God to our expected end

Passover → Pentecost → Tabernacles

- ❖ Understanding the journey

A mystery

Numbers 9:2

- ❖ Let the children of Israel keep the Passover at the **appointed time**
- ❖ **Appointed time** = *fixed time, an appointment, an appointed season, a festival or a feast, a solemn assembly, an appointed place. It was actually the times when God predestined that He would meet with His people.*
- ❖ **Hb "Moed"**
Genesis 1:14 – the lights are for signs and **seasons**
- ❖ God set the sun, moon and stars in the heavens, He predetermined that they would be for set times, particular seasons in which He would require His people to meet with Him
- ❖ It was not coincidental that we met with Jesus
- ❖ When we met Jesus it was God's appointed time
- ❖ "moed" also means the "Feasts"
- ❖ When God was planning to meet with man (male and female) He put that into three major feasts with Israel
- ❖ These feasts find their fulfilment in Christ Jesus firstly in our lives individually but then also in the life of the Church

1. Passover

- ❖ 14th day of first month (new calendar God gave to Moses)
- ❖ Take the Lamb, slaughter it and mark houses with the blood
- ❖ It had to be done on a certain day
- ❖ New calendar now to mark the feasts
- ❖ This months is the beginning of months for you, your spiritual journey is now beginning
- ❖ It begins with Passover

What happens at Passover?

Exodus 12

- ❖ Every house that used blood of lamb to mark their houses, the destroying angel had to pass over
- ❖ All in the household were saved
- ❖ They were delivered from the destroyer by the Passover lamb
- ❖ The children of Israel were to eat the flesh of the lamb, while Egyptians were suffering, they were being strengthened for the journey ahead, leaving Egypt
- ❖ God had told Moses that this was to be a feast every year

Also there was to be 7 days of Feasting on Unleavened Bread

Then also, the Day of Firstfruits

Leviticus 23

- ❖ the whole chapter is given over to explaining the chronology of the feasts and the important aspects of the feasts
- v.2** – the feasts were holy convocations, YHWH's feasts
- When we met Jesus, that was our Passover appointment
 - Just like God knew the day in Egypt to deliver His people, so God knew the day He would deliver you
 - Under law of Moses, every Israelite male was required to come to the place of God's Presence 3 times a year to those feasts
 - we are no longer under that law now but we are to learn from the teaching of Moses
 - we are not under the letter of that law anymore, we are not required to keep the feasts according to the letter anymore
 - we are to know the personal fulfilment of these feasts in our lives
 - attending festivals is not pleasing to God but what He wants is for us to meet with Him

At Passover

1. Lamb Slain
 2. 7 days of Unleavened Bread
"7" speaks of a perfect/complete time
- ❖ leaven speaks of sin and false doctrine
 - ❖ this is a time to get the sin out of our lives, to have a time of repentance of all sin
 - ❖ when we met Jesus we asked Him to forgive all of our sin
3. Final day was "Day of Firstfruits"

- ❖ ripest sheaves of cereal crop brought to priests
- ❖ priest waved them before the Lord
- ❖ was end of feast but beginning of cereal harvest
- ❖ now there were 7 weeks to bring the harvest in

What is waving of firstfruits about?

Matthew 28:1

- ❖ day after Sabbath women came to the tomb
- ❖ they found it was empty
- ❖ Why? There had been a resurrection
- ❖ This is essential to fulfilment of Passover feast
- ❖ Lamb was sacrificed and raised from dead
- ❖ To fulfil the feast in our lives is repentance, faith and baptism into death, burial and resurrection of Jesus
- ❖ Now we are really born again
- ❖ Sins remitted, baptised in Messiah, we begin our journey

Passover was in Egypt

By blood of lamb we are delivered from Pharaoh and his people

They began the journey out of Egypt

They came to the Red Sea, some water

The only way out of Egypt is through water = baptism

Through the water, Egyptians were drowned, defeated

Our enemies are also defeated through baptism into Christ

Now we are headed for the Feast of Weeks/Pentecost

2. Feast of Weeks, Pentecost

From Passover, there was seven weeks plus one day until the Feast of Weeks (50 days)

Exodus 19:1

- ❖ In the 3rd month after children of Israel came out of Egypt
- ❖ On same day, they came to **wilderness of Sinai**
- ❖ **Pentecost is in the Wilderness**
- ❖ Children of Israel were in Sinai 50 days after Passover

What happened at Mount Sinai?

- ❖ lots of noise, thunder, shouting

Why did God want Moses to bring people to Sinai?

- ❖ Mt Horeb was the particular mountain in the mountain range of Sinai

What had happened at Horeb?

- ❖ Moses met God in the burning bush there
- ❖ The manifestation was fire
- ❖ Fire burns and brings purification

What was the important thing that happened here?

- ❖ the giving of the Law, the Torah

Exodus 24

- ❖ the affirming of the covenant
 - ❖ Pentecost is important because the covenant was affirmed here
 - ❖ The Law was given
- v.3** – Moses told the people all the law and judgements
- all the people answered "All the words which YHWH has said we will do"
 - Moses wrote all the words and built an altar...
 - he slaughtered some animals and sprinkled half the blood on the people and the other half he poured on the altar
 - the blood sealed the covenant between God and Israel
 - the result of that was that God allowed Moses, Aaron and 70 elders of Israel to go up into heavenly places
 - they were allowed to live because of the covenant
 - they saw the God of heaven, they ate and drank in His Presence
 - I wonder if it was bread and wine?

If Israel made a covenant with God that day and Jeremiah speaks of a New Covenant – **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

- ❖ Israel got married with God that day
- ❖ Messianic Jews today will understand that, that was when Israel married God
- ❖ When we come into covenant with God, it is a marriage, the strongest covenant possible
- ❖ The Old Covenant is becoming obsolete because the people did not keep it
- ❖ So He gave us a New Covenant sealed in the blood of Jesus
- ❖ **Heb.9:11-12**

What is fulfilment of Pentecost?

- ❖ You have to come through the right way
- ❖ No Pentecost if you never came through Passover
- ❖ These are appointed meeting times with God, it is in a set order
- ❖ Without repentance and remission of sins you never get out of Egypt

Acts 2

- ❖ by being filled with the Holy Spirit
- ❖ death, resurrection and coming of Holy Spirit were done exactly within the framework of literal Passover and Pentecost feasts

v.1 – when day of Pentecost **fully** came

Why **fully** came?

- ❖ because this was in fulfilment
- ❖ firstly the 12th apostle had to be sorted out for a proper foundation
- ❖ At Sinai there needed to be 12 pillars for the altar
- ❖ There has to be 12 apostles in the establishment of New Testament Church
- ❖ Someone had to fill the office of Judas
- ❖ 11 apostles was not enough! Pentecost could have only come if the 12th apostle was in place
- ❖ With 12 apostles the day could **fully come**
- ❖ Then the sound came from heaven as of a mighty rushing wind

v.4 – they were all filled with Holy Spirit, and they spoke with tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance

New Covenant!!

❖ now law is written on our hearts, not on tablets of stone

Exodus 32:28

- when Moses was up getting the law the people began to play the harlot to an idol

- Aaron said he threw the gold in a fire and a bull came out

- the bull was called "YHWH"

- Levitical brothers told to go through the camp and kill those involved

- 3000 souls died at Sinai, 3000 men fell that day

Acts 2:41

❖ those who received the word gladly were being baptised

❖ about 3000 souls added to their number that day

❖ you cannot hang out at Pentecost, it is dangerous

❖ Amazing contrast! We have a "better" covenant

Passover had unleavened bread

Pentecost had leaven in the feast, to test our hearts, to overcome temptation

3. Feast of Tabernacles

Passover – Egypt

Pentecost – Wilderness

Tabernacles – Land of Inheritance

❖ the first ones who came out of Egypt never came to the Land except Joshua and Caleb

❖ they saw miracles everyday but still did not inherit

❖ their clothes and shoes never wore out

❖ today a generation of Pentecostals are dying out

❖ finally there is only death in the Wilderness, no fulfilment

Make sure you go to Passover

Make sure you are there at Pentecost

Pentecost is to empower

We are given the law, the constitution, we know how to behave now to prepare us to enter the land

The early church did not fully inherit

Matthew 13:39

❖ harvest is the end of the age

❖ Tabernacles is a harvest festival, the great harvest festival

❖ Passover → Pentecost based around cereal harvest

❖ Tabernacles is in seventh month, is a harvest of grape and olive

Tabernacles is feast of fulfilment

Tabernacles is feast of the end of the age

Tabernacles is knowing the Father, being sons, doing what our Father says

Passover → Child, disciple

Pentecost → Young men, minister

Tabernacles → Fathers, sons in maturity

Session 17
Rob Cochrane

Making Disciples

This is the command that Jesus has given us

Matthew 28:18-20

- ❖ all authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth
- ❖ Go and make disciples of all the nations...baptising...teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you

Fulfilling the Great Commission

Romans 1:1-5

- ❖ Through Him – Jesus the Christ, the Son of God
- ❖ We have received grace and apostleship

John 1:17

Law came through Moses

Grace and truth came through Jesus the Christ

Hebrews 3:1-6

- ❖ consider the Apostle...Christ Jesus
- ❖ faithful like unto Moses
- ❖ worthy of more glory than Moses
- ❖ He who built the house has more honour than the house
- ❖ Builder of all things is God
- ❖ Christ, as a Son over His own house, whose house we are...

We are Christ's house if we hold fast

Every house has a builder

The builder of God's house is God

The builder is Jesus

As the Builder of the House He has commanded us to make disciples

As we obediently make disciples, Jesus builds the house

It is important that we know about making disciples

Commissions – the Sendings

Mark 16:15-16

Luke 24:46-49

Matthew 28:18-20

John 20:21

With His authority we are sent to go

Every nation is to be reached and disciplined

This is not if you want to, this is Jesus' command

We need to keep growing in our understanding of what it is to make disciples

Disciple – a follower of a teacher and his teaching

- ❖ we are to disciple all nations

How do we make a disciple?

- ❖ Making disciples is not getting people to “make a decision for Christ”
- ❖ We need to consider Jesus the **Apostle**
- ❖ **Apostle** = a person fully representing the one who sent them
- ❖ we need to look at Jesus the Apostle to learn how to make disciples
- ❖ Jesus was not building church buildings but He was making disciples
- ❖ Jesus gives us the clear and pure steps of being a disciple

Mark 1:14

- ❖ Jesus had just been baptised
- ❖ He was tempted for forty days and forty nights
- ❖ Now He comes with the message
- ❖ Preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God
- ❖ Repent and believe the gospel, the good news
- ❖ Gospel = good news
- ❖ It is good news of forgiveness of sins
- ❖ It is good news to be brought into a realm, a place where there is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (**Rom.14:17**)

What causes us to repent?

Romans 2:4 – It is God’s goodness that causes us to repent

- ❖ hearts are cut by the goodness of God

Believe

- ❖ is to fully rely upon
- ❖ believing with the whole heart
- ❖ **James 2:19** – demons believe but tremble. Must go deeper than a simple head knowledge and believing the facts
- ❖ Disciples need to repent and believe, trusting fully upon Jesus and what He has done

Mark 16:15-16

- ❖ Go into all the world and preach the good news to every creature
- ❖ He who **believes and is baptised** will be saved
- ❖ So much ministry of recent times has been calling people to raise up their hands in response to the preaching and then saying those people are saved
- ❖ Jesus said for us to believe and be baptised – do not delay

Matthew 28:19

- ❖ make disciples and **baptise** them
- ❖ not just take them to a “church” meeting

Double witness of Mark and Matthew says that disciples should repent, believe and be baptised (**Acts 2:38**)

Let us not rob people by giving them a watered down gospel

Hebrews 2:10

- ❖ the destiny of disciples
- ❖ bringing many sons to glory
- ❖ this is the goal of making disciples
- ❖ it is not just getting people born again
- ❖ they are to grow from being babes, to young men to mature sons walking in their inheritance
- ❖ there are many in the church who are still spiritual babies even after many years being "saved"
- ❖ Jesus' goal for us is to come to maturity, to know Him and the power of His resurrection

There is a difference between being a believer and a disciple

- ❖ believers set aside Sundays and some other times for prayer
- ❖ disciples are 24/7 developing a lifestyle of being with Jesus, we belong to Him
- ❖ we are to be Jesus' disciples
- ❖ we are to be disciples of the Word
- ❖ you are not to be disciples of a denomination
- ❖ **Matthew 16:24-25, Luke 9:23** – to follow Jesus we have to deny ourselves, take up our cross daily and follow Jesus

1 John 2:12-14

3 stages of growth in a disciple

(Babies – just born again)

Little children – believed and baptised, being nurtured by pastor, being fed the milk of the word (**1 Pet.2:2**)

- ❖ **John 8:31-32** – abide in word and you will be disciples, they can know the Truth, and get freedom
- ❖ they know their sins are forgiven them
- ❖ they know they have a Father

Young Men

- ❖ trained to minister in the house of God
- ❖ the place of ministry, given some responsibility

Five ministries are all involved in the making disciples

Ephesians 4:11-16

- ❖ these five grace gifts have been given for the equipping of the saints
- ❖ bringing the babes/children to be young men and on to being **fathers**
- ❖ making disciples is more than just being in the outer court area
- ❖ the grace and apostleship has been given to help us grow up, to fully come to obedience to the faith
- ❖ we are to grow up into that full adoption as sons
- ❖ We are to grow up into the glory, into seeing the Father in Jesus

Fruits of being a disciple

1. **Committed** – not trying to find their life but losing their life for gospel and Jesus (**Mark 8:34-35, Matt.10:38**), willing to take up their cross daily and follow Jesus
2. **Submitted** – many want to do their own thing, we are baptised into the Body of Messiah, submitting to Jesus in the Body (**Eph.5:21, 1 Pet.5:5-11**)
3. **Accountable** – they are accountable to Jesus (**2 Cor.5:9-11, Col.3:23-25**), need to good stewards of grace (**1 Pet.4:10**), accountable to leadership
4. **Sent** – sent from a Body by Jesus to do His works
5. **Willing to suffer for the glory of God** – **1 Pet.4:12-19, Matt.5:11-12**
6. **True disciple is part of new wineskin** – a kingdom disciple, proclaims the kingdom, proclaims Jesus the Messiah, **Matt.11:12** – pushes into the kingdom
7. **Signs and wonders** follow these disciples – physical signs follow but also character changes happen, lives change

These ones are followers of Jesus and His Teaching
They follow the Jesus of the Bible
Let's commit ourselves afresh to discipleship!!

Session 18
Paul Galligan

Feast of Tabernacles **All things coming together in Christ**

Passover – Egypt – Pharaoh/Satan

- ❖ escaped world, devil by blood (fulfilled in Jesus' blood) and going through water of red sea (baptism)

These feasts were appointed meeting times with God

Pentecost – Mt Horeb in Sinai – 50 days after Passover – giving of law – signs and wonders – Old Covenant affirmed – married – 3000 men died - wilderness

- ❖ fulfilled in **Acts 2** by giving of Holy Spirit, law written on hearts not stone – 3000 saved

Destined for land of inheritance

Tabernacles – only to be celebrated in the land – feast of fulfilment – of inheritance – of all things coming together in Christ

Many Christians are locked into the first feast, Passover, believing in forgiveness sins, and some believe in baptism

Many camp at Pentecost and are Pentecostals, many speaking in tongues even though many of the younger generation are not manifesting that gift nowadays

You cannot jump over any of the feasts, must come through the right way

Tabernacles comes in 3 parts

1. Memorial blowing of trumpets - 1st day of 7th month

- ❖ trumpet sound means a call to come up
- ❖ it is a call to war
- ❖ it is a warning
- ❖ a call to move on
- ❖ God does not sneak up on anybody but blows the trumpet to herald what He is doing
- ❖ Restoration of trumpets in our day is universal preaching and proclaiming of God's word in our day
- ❖ In 1948 there was a revival in Canada called "Latter Rain" Revival
- ❖ Through this came prophetic understanding of many things in Old T, on Feasts, on Tabernacle, about sons of God, five fold ministry
- ❖ This called the church to wake up and get to know who we are and God's destiny for us as His church
- ❖ Restoration, God is restoring all things – **Acts 3:19-21**
- ❖ **John 14:2** – restoration of truth, not speaking of heaven but of being placed in Christ, in Father's house, the Church

❖ **Trumpets is prophetic word coming forth calling people to the Day of Atonement**

2. Day of Atonement

Lev.23:26-32

- ❖ 10th day of 7th month
- ❖ The One day of the year that the high Priest would go in to the Holy of holies with the blood

Hebrews 9:27-28

- ❖ Christ offered once to bear sins of many
- ❖ To those eagerly waiting for Jesus, He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation

What is this "appear a second time"?

Leviticus 16:

- ❖ High Priest first had to go in for himself
- ❖ He then went in a 2nd time for the whole house of Israel
- ❖ The 2nd time was the most important for all of His people
- ❖ The 2nd time He appears to release full salvation, totally free from sin

In picture of Tabernacle

- ❖ evangelist gets you saved by preaching Jesus
- ❖ Pastor fathers and mothers new believers, bringing milk and baptism and receiving Holy Spirit
- ❖ Then in Holy Place Teacher at Table of Showbread
- ❖ Prophet at Lampstand
- ❖ Apostle at Altar of Incense
- ❖ Through the veil there is no more ministry, which means end of "church age"
- ❖ God wants a multitude to step through the veil
- ❖ **1 Jn.3:2-3** – those who have this hope purify themselves, they stop sinning
- ❖ Behind the veil there are sons, it is the kingdom, there is no sin, no more choosing to sin, we see Him the 2nd time
- ❖ This is the speaking place of God, we hear Him, the pure Word, the Oracle, no trying to change it, just let it be the Word
- ❖ Holy Place is a realm of ministry, discipling others, five ministries are bringing people to be ready to go behind the veil, sin free and step into the Coming!
- ❖ Spiritually the veil is still there
- ❖ **2 Corinthians 3:18** – we need unveiled faces to be changed by the glory
- ❖ Jesus is on the Throne releasing His glory, through five ministries
- ❖ **1 Corinthians 12:28** – God set 1st apostles, 2nd prophets, 3rd teachers...
- ❖ these ministries are responsible to bring the ministry of the Word
- ❖ Firstly through apostles to bring forth apostolic doctrine
- ❖ Apostles are being restored today to bring forth apostolic doctrine
- ❖ In restoration the first truth lost is the last truth restored – apostles were lost first, replaced by bishops, they are last truth/ministry to be restored

Leviticus 16

- ❖ 2 goats

- ❖ High Priest had to take off flash garments of High Priest and put on simple linen garments (**v.4**)
- ❖ He took off garments of glory and beauty
- ❖ Linen speaks of righteousness (**Rev.19:8**)
- v.5** – 2 kids (goats)
- v.8** – cast lots for 2 goats – 1 for YHWH, 1 for the Scapegoat
 - Scapegoat was left alive, let go into the wilderness
- v.11** – Aaron (High Priest) would make atonement for himself
- v.12-13** – incense brought in behind the veil, in a censer
 - cloud of incense may cover the mercy seat above testimony, lest he die
 - Priest could only approach mercy seat totally enshrouded in the incense smoke
 - incense was a covering
 - incense is prayer (**Rev.5:8**)
 - we must be covered in prayer so we stay in the Spirit, stay obedient to Him
 - this was done for himself and his family

- v.15** – then he comes out to kill the goat
 - this goat is for the people
 - High Priest went in twice

We are waiting for Jesus to appear a second time, not for sin, but we are waiting for Him to come out to bring salvation!!!

- ❖ when He comes all things will be complete and ready
- ❖ **Ephesians 5:26-27** – Christ is sanctifying and cleansing the church with the washing by the water of the Word to present to Himself a glorious church...
- ❖ Are you wanting to be part of that church?
- ❖ Those who are ready can step in to the glory
- ❖ Once the five wise virgins stepped in then the door was shut
- ❖ This is serious but also very exciting!!

The Scapegoat

Hebrews 13:10-13

- ❖ Jesus suffered outside the camp
- ❖ Jesus was the Scapegoat
- ❖ In Leviticus the sins of Israel were imparted on the Scapegoat and the goat was taken into the wilderness by the hand of a "suitable man" and the goat died under the weight of sin
- ❖ Jesus became that Scapegoat, taking the blame for somebody else

Jesus also became the sacrificial goat!

Hebrews 9:11-12

- ❖ What happened to sacrificial goat? It was killed and its blood taken into the Holy of Holies
- ❖ Christ came...not with blood of goats and calves but with His own blood
- ❖ Jesus took His own blood into heaven (**v.24**) and He now appears in the Presence of God for us

How is the Day of Atonement fulfilled in the church?

- ❖ All sin is forgiven and remitted
- ❖ Come to this day
- ❖ His blood is on the mercy seat already
- ❖ It is time to receive the "eternal redemption"
- ❖ **Romans 8:30** – justified and glorified
- ❖ Sanctified by blood, Spirit and word
- ❖ He wants us to enter the Holiest
- ❖ No turning back, fully in kingdom
- ❖ We will shine forth in the kingdom of our Father (**Matthew 13:43**)
- ❖ Lord wants to deal with all of our flesh so we can partake of all the inheritance
- ❖ It is Father's good pleasure to give us the kingdom (**Luke 12:32**)
- ❖ We have to walk in the glory to inherit fully the kingdom

Jesus is in the glory today and when He comes He is coming on the clouds of glory

- ❖ By one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified (**Heb.10:14**)
- ❖ This one offering was made on the Cross and His blood taken into the Holiest
- ❖ This is what we need to hear in Australia today
- ❖ We need the gospel of Jesus Christ, the gospel of the kingdom of God
- ❖ Keep your mind on things above, not on things on the earth (**Col.3:1-4**) – we died and our life is hidden with Christ in God

A great change is to come over the church

Release that change in us, the spirit of a renewed mind

Romans 12:2 – let us be transformed by the renewing of our mind

We are called to go on to perfection – **Hebrews 6:1-3** – we must lay the elementary principles of Christ

Tabernacles = dwelling

God dwelling with and in man

God always intended and planned to tabernacle with us

John 1:14 – Word (who was God) became flesh and "tabernacled" among us

- ❖ we beheld His glory...full of grace and truth
- ❖ keep your eyes on Jesus – **2 Cor.4:6**
- ❖ this change comes by faith, and faith comes by hearing the word
- ❖ we need to position ourselves to hear the Word
- ❖ Lord is releasing His word now and a great change is happening now
- ❖ How are we going to made perfect and complete? By grace through faith – **Eph.2:8**

3. The Feast of Tabernacles

Leviticus 23:33

- ❖ 15th day of 7th month
- ❖ 7 day feast to YHWH
- ❖ Day 1. a Sabbath day, a rest
- ❖ Offerings everyday by fire, a lamb

- ❖ Most offerings only the fat was burnt and meat given to priests
- ❖ But lamb was totally consumed
- ❖ Sacrifice by fire was central to every feast and at Tabernacles was everyday

v.40

- take for yourselves fruit (foliage) of beautiful trees, palms, leafy trees, willows
- We are to feast; enjoy the feast
- God comes and has a party with us
- we are with God in the feast, enjoying the Presence everyday
- 7 days = a complete perfect time
- we are in Christ and He dwells in us
- we can corporately touch on this now, experiencing the felt Presence of God among us
- God is in the midst
- they had to make booths from those trees

Ps.92:12

- ❖ righteous flourish like palm tree
- ❖ Palms speak of righteous
- ❖ We are to be righteous
- ❖ Not only saved but walking in righteousness

Ps.1:3

- ❖ He shall be like a tree planted by rivers of waters
- ❖ Those who trust in YHWH and do what He says
- ❖ Fruit brought forth in season, leaf never withers
- ❖ Leafy trees found by water
- ❖ Righteous ones planted by streams of water = filled with Holy Spirit
- ❖ **Isaiah 12:1-6**
- ❖ **Jeremiah 17:8** – trees not affected by drought, always bearing fruit (**John 15** – is all about bearing fruit)

What are the booths?

- ❖ prophetically symbolic of saints who have come into the fulfilment of Tabernacles
 - a) they are righteous (**2 Cor.5:21**)
 - b) Spirit-filled – they can draw water freely from wells of salvation, speaks in tongues edifying ourselves, speaking mysteries to God – do not give up on being released in that gift
 - c) Saints who are bearing fruit – fruit in our lives

Dwelling in these booths happens for 7 days

There is an eight day

Leviticus 23:39

- ❖ 1st day Sabbath
- ❖ 8th day also a Sabbat, a holy convocation, all called together

John 7:37-39

- ❖ fulfilment of 8th day
- ❖ all thirsty are to come to Jesus
- ❖ believers will have rivers of living water flow from their belly, their innermost being
- ❖ 8th day all are called together
- ❖ Anyone, anywhere in the world today who is thirsty Jesus welcomes to drink
- ❖ How will He give them all drink?
- ❖ "Those who believe in Jesus" will be the ones who give drink to the thirsty people
- ❖ **Ps.84:5-7** – we are blessed when we set our heart on pilgrimage to the feast on Tabernacles
- ❖ Out of the innermost being of believers will flow rivers of living water
- ❖ Living Water = Spirit-empowered Word
- ❖ This is all so possible, based on reality and experience
- ❖ These thirsty ones may be any sort of person

What is the fulfilment of Feast of Tabernacles?

It is emergence of pure, perfect church

Jesus will be found in the midst of this church

Spirit of God will be poured out in the midst in an unprecedented way

Even greater than on the day of Pentecost

Jesus will appear, every eye will see Him – when the church comes to that place when the church embraces the spirit of martyrdom

- ❖ just like Stephen

The Lord will be seen

There is coming a day where we will be able to say "If you have seen me you have seen Jesus"

His promise is that rivers will flow out of His church

The day is coming when Hab.2:14 will be fulfilled

The river comes forth from very throne of God – **Ezek.47**

Moses saw the river come out of the Rock

John saw the river coming from the throne (**Rev.22**)

This gospel of the kingdom will be preached as a witness to all nations and then the end will come (**Matt.24:14**)

We are all talking about kingdom more, it is in the glory, in the place where the ministries are no longer needed as we all come into the place of mature sonship
When the last trumpet blows to herald the return of the Lord – will you be ready, will you have been part of the glorious church, will you heed the call to come to Day of Atonement, will you be made perfect (**1 Thess. 5:23**)

God gives us an awesome promise

1 Peter 5:10-11

What is beyond the veil?

We enter fully the kingdom of God

No more "church age"

No more ministry

All walking in the glory

Armed for war

Mark 16:17

- ❖ signs that will follow believers
- ❖ first mentioned is "In My name you will cast out demons"
- ❖ This is one of first aspects of our inheritance
- ❖ Those who believe in Jesus have authority to cast out demons in Jesus' name
- ❖ Devil will try to tell you "This is not for you"
- ❖ So let us agree that Bible is Word of God and every Scripture is inspired of God
- ❖ Believers have authority in Jesus name to cast out devils

James 4:7

- ❖ submit to God
- ❖ resist devil
- ❖ he will flee from you
- ❖ do not try and resist the devil if you are struggling with sin
- ❖ must deal with sin first
- ❖ repent, change mind, turn to God, ask for forgiveness and cleansing and the devil will flee
- ❖ as you confess your authority and who you are in Christ you can resist the devil

1 Peter 5:8

- be sober, vigilant
- your adversary the devil roams about like a roaring lion
- the devil is aggressive in coming after Christians
- he has no right to harass, torment, tempt
- but we need to be sober and vigilant
- because he is roaming
- resist him **steadfast in the faith**
- keep going back to the Word, learn Word off by heart, key verses regarding spiritual warfare

Luke 10:17

- ❖ 70 disciples sent out to witness two by two
- ❖ They came back rejoicing
- ❖ They found the demons subject to them in Jesus' name
- ❖ Individual believers who have become disciples
- ❖ Every believer will be troubled by the devil, tested, tempted
- ❖ But these 70 were **disciples**, at a level of maturity of being sent out by Jesus for some ministry
- ❖ They were not newly saved believers
- ❖ This is the authority of **young men and women (1 Jn.2:14)**
- ❖ Able to minister to others and set them free from demons

v.19

- Jesus then gave them more authority
 - over all power of enemy
 - nothing would be able to hurt them
 - if devil is giving you a hard time do not think you are doing something right
 - real question is "what are you doing wrong?" when devil is giving you a hard time
 - we overcome the Accuser of the Brethren by the Blood of the Lamb
- (Rev.12:11)**

How do we overcome by the blood of the Lamb?

- ❖ if we repent and confess sin, the blood of Jesus will forgive and cleanse you
- ❖ this is how we overcome the devil
- ❖ cannot buy blood of Jesus in a bottle and pour it around
- ❖ blood was shed so we could receive forgiveness of sins, devil then has no place in us, we overcome him
- ❖ Devil tries to accuse, when we are forgiven there is no place for accusation

Matthew 12:29

- ❖ we must first bind the strong man before entering the house

Who is the Strong Man?

How do we steal his goods?

How do we occupy his house?

Bind the Strong Man = the devil that is binding him up, the evil spirit controlling and dominating the house

Then you speak truth of gospel to him = plundering the strong man's house

The riches = the life of the person

The house = the person

Then the house is empty and must be filled with every good thing

- ❖ get person to confess sins, receive forgiveness, invite Jesus in, ask Holy Spirit to fill the person and then baptise them

Is important to first bind the strong man

Can a Christian have a demon?

- ❖ if a person has a demon, no matter who they are, they need it gone
- ❖ yes Christians can have demons
- ❖ and many do
- ❖ we need to help them be delivered rather than argue about whether they have one or not

Ephesians 6 – Armour of God

Picture of the church, the assembly of saints in a locality

When Paul wrote to Corinth he wrote to the believers in Corinth (a city)

- ❖ there is one congregation in the city
- ❖ that congregation probably met in hundreds of fellowships in houses
- ❖ that congregation had a common eldership in the city
- ❖ there may have been 12-15 elders leading the congregation in the city
- ❖ they had been appointed by Paul the apostle and were accountable to him even when far away
- ❖ they were to be making disciples, continuing the apostolic work
- ❖ apostles are "sent ones" which means they are itinerant
- ❖ one congregation meeting in many fellowships in a locality
- ❖ with recognized leadership called "bishops" or "elders"
- ❖ "Bishop" not a good word in English as it is inherited from Roman Catholic, wearing robes and hats etc.
- ❖ This is not Biblical picture
- ❖ The elders are among the brethren
- ❖ Elders "have the rule" over you is not a very good translation
- ❖ Elders actually "lead" so you can follow

Paul teaches on armour and spiritual warfare in chapter 6

- ❖ five chapters and 9 verses come before the armour and teaching on spiritual warfare
- ❖ go through the book of Ephesians (also in manual "Steps to Revival" to see major topics in Ephesians)
- ❖ Ephesians is by far richest book of revelation of what the church is

Ephesians 1

- v.19-20** – exceeding greatness of power toward us who believe
- same power worked in Christ to raise Him from dead and seat Him in heavenly places, place of authority, the Throne of God (**Revelation 3:21** – Jesus is on Father's Throne, overcomers sit on Jesus' Throne = One Throne)
 - this place is far above all principality and power...every name...
 - Paul sets the scene

Ephesians 2:6

- ❖ when we were saved in Christ we were raised up together with Him
- ❖ we sit together with Christ in heavenly places
- ❖ we as the congregation are seated far above...

Ephesians 6:12

- ❖ Paul identifies the warfare
- ❖ Not big guns
- ❖ It is a wrestling
- ❖ It is against princes, powers, rulers of the darkness, spiritual hosts of wickedness
- ❖ Whether we like it or not they will come against **US**
- ❖ This spiritual warfare is not individual
- ❖ It is **US**, the **congregation** in a locality
- ❖ So we have to learn to walk together, stand together
- ❖ Not talking about demons who possess or harass individuals

- ❖ Warfare is on a corporate
- ❖ We need to learn to hang in there and be part of the Body
- ❖ We may be isolated physically but are not to be spiritually
- ❖ When an individual struggles they must let us know so **we** can stand with you
- ❖ We belong in the **assembly**
- ❖ We have a plan to make disciples of every nation
- ❖ It is easy, we do not strain and strive
- ❖ It happens through individual contacts that God makes
- ❖ Doors open, 8 Latin American nations, 17 African nations
- ❖ Join the great commission club and God opens doors
- ❖ Sent, safe and supplied

Ephesians 6:10

- ❖ finally...be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might
- ❖ **Zech.4:6** – not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says YHWH
- ❖ we are strong in the Lord
- ❖ then we are to put on the whole armour of God
- ❖ this is so we can stand against the wiles/schemes of the devil
- ❖ we are to do this as an **assembly in order**
- ❖ we are not a place of “just come along”
- ❖ join us or move on
- ❖ we are committed, demanding and serious about the work
- ❖ when you are joined you come under a covering – the Lord Jesus Christ
- ❖ when we rank under Him, receiving the five ministries, recognizing the spiritual gifts...we grow together and are built together
- ❖ we recognize people after the spirit, not the flesh
- ❖ together we put on the whole armour of God

When anyone gets serious about obeying the Word of God

- ❖ there will be a wrestling
- ❖ we are to **withstand** – that means that we are not to move, we stand our ground

Matthew 16:18

- ❖ you are Peter and upon this Rock I will build My church and the gates of Hades/Hell shall not prevail against it
- ❖ we are in good company
- ❖ we are in the assembly that Jesus is building

6 pieces of armour that we are to put on

And a 7th thing we must do

Eph.6:14

1. Gird your waist with truth
- ❖ what is truth?
 - ❖ **John 17:17** – Your Word is truth
- 1 Peter 1:13** – it is the “loins of your mind” that are to be girded
 - in ancient days and even among tribal peoples today, believe and know that the mind is in the belly region

- it is Greek idea that the mind is in the head
- the mind is in the spirit, in the innermost being
- get the word into your innermost being
- it is about the revelation of Jesus the Christ
- we are to be renewed in the spirit of our minds – **Eph.4:23-24**
- **Rom.12:2, Col.3:2**

Put on the belt of the truth

The truth is the Word of God

We need to be strong in our minds concerning the Word of God

This includes regular reading and study of the Word

2. Breastplate of Righteousness

- this protects your heart
- with the heart people believe unto righteousness (**Rom.10:9**)
- many agree in the mind concerning the gospel
- but when we get into trouble that level of faith will not help you
- the word has to drop down in your heart
- we must know in our heart not only our minds
- when we believe in our heart then we confess with our mouth unto salvation

Ephesians 6:15

3. Feet shod with gospel of peace

- when we have word in our mind, believe in our heart, then we walk in peace
- **Romans 10:14-15** – blessed are the feet of them who bring good news, who preach gospel of peace
- **Rom.10:18** – their sound and words have gone out
- if we do not have peace we will not go

Ephesians 6:16

4. Shield of faith

- faith is a shield
- faith is a gift of God, it comes by hearing the Word
- the gift is given through hearing the Word
- we hear and receive the Word and that is faith and we can do something
- faith in and of the Word is a shield for us from things coming against the assembly
- the spoken word of God, the answer God gives from prayer, becomes our shield
- this shield puts out the fiery darts of the enemy, putting out doubts
- we need each other, this is corporate warfare

Ephesians 6:17

5. Helmet of Salvation

- the helmet protects our head

What is the head?

- ❖ it is the place of authority
- ❖ it is through headship

- ❖ in the place of authority, we have to make decisions
- ❖ in our mind we think things through and weigh them up and we need the Word in there
- ❖ faith comes in the heart
- ❖ walk in gospel of peace
- ❖ use shield of faith
- ❖ then we need helmet of salvation to make decisions
- ❖ we need to make a decision to praise YAH
- ❖ bad thinking and confused feelings need to get out, must make a decision because I am in charge of my life

6. Take up the sword of the Spirit

- this is the word of God
- "Word" = Gk "logos" or Gk "rhema"
- sword of Spirit is "rhema" of God
- **Matthew 4:4** = "rhema" – we live by every "word/rhema" that proceeds from mouth of God
- we use this word as a sword

Helmet of salvation helps us make godly decisions in the heat of the battle

- ❖ when we align ourselves with the Word then God can speak to us and it will be a sword in our hands

When we decide to stand and contend for the faith and you will hear from God

Ephesians 6:18

7. All prayer and supplication in the Spirit

- praying for all the saints
- v.19** – also pray for the apostle to have utterance and speak boldly making known the mystery of the gospel

Out of this corporate spiritual warfare, the church prays for the apostle

Building the Church

Building the assembly, the congregation

Matthew 16:18

- ❖ Upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it

Jesus is the one who is building His church. He has the pattern.
We have been commanded to make disciples and Jesus will build His church.
When we are built the right way, we are in order to then overcome the devil.

Matthew 9:35-38

- ❖ Jesus was preaching the gospel of the kingdom
 - ❖ Healing and delivering
 - ❖ The harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few
- In building up the assembly, we need to raise up workers for the harvest.
- In this context the harvest is among the people of God, not "lost souls"
- ❖ There are sheep without any shepherd

Jeremiah 3:15 – shepherds to feed God's people with knowledge and understanding

Luke 10:2 – labourers are needed

Jesus knew that the building of the church (ecclesia) had to do with raising up workers.

- ❖ The goal is to raise up workers who can then be sent out into the harvest.
- ❖ Trained and equipped, sent out with power
- ❖ Able ministers rightly dividing the truth (training)
- ❖ Able to minister and impart the anointing (equipping)

Ephesians 4:7-10

- ❖ when Jesus ascended on high, He gave gifts to men
- ❖ these gifts are very important
- ❖ **v.11** – apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers
- ❖ these gifts are still needed and functioning today
- ❖ **v.13** – these gifts are given until a particular time, until we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

These ministries are given for equipping.

Equipping – has to do with setting a bone in position so that it can function, to make fully qualified for service

The body will not function without all of these ministries.

- ❖ we are returning to the word of God

- ❖ We are returning to apostolic practice
- ❖ We are coming back to the word
- ❖ We are coming back to the pattern
- ❖ We need Jesus to show us what to do

Mark 3:13-15

- ❖ 12 appointed that they might be with Him
- ❖ That He might send them out to preach
- ❖ Given power and authority to set God's people free

We need to be trained by being with the apostolic team.
 Jesus wanted to build and raise up some people so that He could send them out.
 Jesus was the mobile apostolic training centre in His generation

Acts 16:1-3

- ❖ Paul followed a similar pattern to Jesus
- ❖ A certain disciple was there named Timothy
- ❖ Paul wanted to have him go on with him
- ❖ He wanted Timothy to be with him for the purpose of then being able to send him out

Who do you take with you when you go out on missions? Who are you raising up and training? Who have you raised to take on the work after you?

Jesus is building the assembly (church) through fathers and sons. Jesus was a father to the 12. These 12 sons were then able to raise up other sons.

Acts 19:1-10 – Establishing the Assembly/Ecclesia

- ❖ Paul came to Ephesus and found some disciples
- ❖ He asked them if they had received the Holy Spirit when they believed
- ❖ He asked them about their baptism - 'Into what were you immersed?'
- ❖ They had only received John's baptism (a baptism of repentance preparing them for the Messiah)
- ❖ Paul is an apostle and he is checking their foundations (**Hebrews 6:1-3**)
- ❖ They had the foundation of repentance laid but needed to put their faith in Jesus
- ❖ Paul shares Jesus
- ❖ They were then baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus
- ❖ **V.6** – they received the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands
- ❖ they spoke with tongues and prophesied
- ❖ Now the church (ecclesia) is getting established, properly founded
- ❖ There were about 12 disciples now with foundations laid in their lives

Training taking place for disciples

- ❖ **V.8-10** – Paul went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for 3 months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God
- ❖ When some were hardened Paul departed and withdrew the disciples
- ❖ Reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus

- ❖ Paul had apostolic training and discussion in a public hall
- ❖ This continued for 2 years
- ❖ As a result, all in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks
- ❖ This would have happened through the disciples that Paul was raising and sending out

v.11-20 – even unusual miracles began to happen
 - the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed (v.20)

This is how Jesus is building the ecclesia – apostolic training centres

- ❖ being with the apostolic team
- ❖ sending out labourers

Acts 20:4

- ❖ Paul was a man who took people on team with him
- ❖ Sopater, Aristarchus, Secundus, Gaius, Timothy, Tychicus, Trophimus (a team of 7)

The apostle is a role model, an example

Philippians 3:17

- ❖ brethren, join in following my example
- ❖ you have us for a pattern (role model)

1 Corinthians 4:16-17

- imitate me
- for this reason I have sent Timothy to you, my beloved and faithful son
- Timothy was able to remind them of Paul's ways

We need to be following the pattern – raising sons

- ❖ We need trained workers for the harvest
- ❖ Those who get saved need to be discipled, they need the foundations laid in their lives
- ❖ New believers need to be fed with knowledge and understanding (the milk of the word)
- ❖ New believers need to be shown the lifestyle (Acts 2:42)

- apostolic training and,
- planting of the church in houses
- we need people who are willing and available, committed

7 Steps to Fruitful ministry

1) Prayer

2) **Evangelism** – (there are also many believers who are lost and need to be reached)

- God gives the strategy through prayer and evangelism

3) Nurture – 1 Peter 2:2 – looking after the new believers

- ministering healing and deliverance

- **Hebrews 6:1-2** - foundations

4) Discipleship

- getting into a pattern of reading the Bible (daily)
- learning to listen for the rhema word of God
- learning to have fellowship in the word

5) Training and equipping for ministry

- experience in presenting the word (rightly dividing the word of truth)
- people need to be trained before being sent
- equipped to minister in the anointing

6) planting the church in the house

- send out ministers who will go out and make disciples, planting the assembly/ecclesia in the house

7) the emergence of new ministries

- ministers set in place in their particular gift
- will see the gifts emerge in the ministers that are sent out

2 Timothy 2:1-2

- this is how Jesus is building the assembly
- be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus
- the things you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also
- the generational succession of the work of the ministry
- the work of building the assembly is to be happening in every generation

Sonship

John 1:12-13

- ❖ those who receive and believe in Jesus have the right to become children (sons) of God
- ❖ born of God

We have received the right and the authority to become people who reveal and manifest the very glory of God.

There is a predestined plan for each one of us,

The moment we received Him, the seed is there. Within that seed is all that is necessary. Now God is at work to bring it forth and grow us up to become sons of God.

What is a son?

Huios (Greek) – primarily a word that stresses the quality and essence of one so resembling another that distinctions between the two are indiscernible

This word describes the dignity of the relationship with God whereinto men are brought by the Holy Spirit.

It gives prominence to the legal reality of receiving an inheritance

If you have seen one, you have seen the other. Jesus said, "If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father"

Today, by the Holy Spirit, God wants to bring us into this awesome relationship with God as our Father.

Maturity comes through God working in us what is pleasing in His sight.

This is a work of the Spirit in our heart.

Becoming a son has got to do with our identity. This is the core identity that God wants all of us to have. The thing that will always remain is our position as a son. Ministry positions will not continue forever, but our identity as sons will. Finally we will all be sons together.

5 different descriptions of sons in the New Testament

a) sons of God

- we are to so resemble God that there is no discernable difference
- we were made to bear the image and likeness of God
- Adam was made to fully resemble God (in His image and likeness)
- sin corrupted this image
- God wants to restore us back into the place of being sons
- Adam and Eve were told to be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, subdue it and have dominion

Matthew 5:9

- ❖ the peacemakers shall be called sons of God

b) sons of light

- **John 12:36** – Jesus is the light
- we are to be sons of light
- Jesus shining through us

2 Corinthians 4:6 – light of knowledge of glory of God in face of Jesus shining out of us!

c) sons of the day

- **1 Thess 5:5** – sons of the day will not miss the coming of the Lord

d) sons of the resurrection

- we are to be manifesting the resurrection
- **Luke 20:36**

e) sons of the kingdom

- **Matthew 13:38** – Jesus is planting sons of the kingdom in the earth

What we are a son of describes what we inherit.

As sons we have an inheritance. Don't remain a servant because servants don't inherit.

Ephesians 1:3-5

- ❖ blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ
- ❖ from the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
- ❖ chosen in Christ and predestined to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself

When we are born again and baptised, we are in Christ.

Most people are unaware of what God has predestined us for. The plan is to adopt us as sons.

Adopt does not mean what we have thought.

In Christ we were born of God, so we were not an illegitimate child put into God's family. We have God's nature and DNA in us. We have been born of God. We are legitimate children of God by the new birth.

Adoption – Gk *huiothesia* (the word 'son' is in here)

The placing of a son (into the inheritance)

- ❖ This is talking of a mature son who can receive the inheritance.

Vines: *Adoption* is a term involving the dignity of the relationship of believers as sons, not a putting into the family by spiritual birth, but a putting into the position as sons

This word is not referring to the born again experience, it is speaking of what we are predestined for – to become sons of God.

Once we are a son, we are a son. Any other position can be removed.

- placed into the position where we can receive (inherit) everything God has for us

Ephesians 1:5

- ❖ this happens through Jesus (by Jesus Christ to Himself)
- ❖ it is the good pleasure of God to make you a son
- ❖ this is not something that we have to work for to attain

When Jesus died on the cross, He prepared a place for you in the Father's house (**John 14:2-3**).

- ❖ sons are in the Father's house
- ❖ there is room for you to be a son in the Father's house

God has always wanted His people to be His sons

Exodus 4:22 – Israel My son

Deut 14:1 – children of Yahweh

Romans 9:4 – the adoption belonged to the children of Israel

We are to be a company of sons – becoming a corporate son (the body of Messiah)

Revelation 21:5-7

- ❖ He who overcomes will inherit all things and I will be his God and he shall be My son

Why did Jesus die on the cross?

Hebrews 2:10

- ❖ bringing many sons to glory
- ❖ Jesus was made perfect through sufferings for this purpose
- ❖ Bringing to glory – is coming into the realm of His glory (not speaking of going to heaven)

The glory is not a thing, it is a person.

Hebrews 1:3 – Jesus is the brightness of His glory, the express image of His person

Jesus is the pattern Son of God

Luke 1:35

- ❖ the Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you
- ❖ He will be called the Son of God
- ❖ Jesus wasn't revealed to be the Son of God until His baptism

When you are born again, you can know that you will be called a son of God (this is your destiny).

Luke 2:49

- ❖ When Jesus was 12 years of age He knew He had to be about His Father's business
- ❖ Jesus was subject to His parents

❖ He grew in stature and wisdom and grace (a period of 18 years)

There is a time of growing for us too.

Maturity is to do with character, being able to reveal who God really is – coming to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Luke 3:21-23

- ❖ the heaven was opened
- ❖ the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form
- ❖ a voice came from heaven
- ❖ 'You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased'

There was a man in the earth upon whom the Spirit of God could rest in His fullness.

This was Jesus' adoption. It was when Jesus was about 30 years old.

Jesus was placed into the position of the Son at His baptism.

From that time on, Jesus walked in great authority. He overcame the devil in the wilderness as the Son of God in the earth.

He healed and delivered (subduing the devil and taking dominion in the earth)

Isaiah 9:6 – unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given (Sons are placed, adopted)

Luke 15:11-12

- ❖ the younger son requested his inheritance
- ❖ the father gave it to him
- ❖ he wasted it and spent all he had
- ❖ the younger son came to his senses and decided to return to his father
- ❖ he asked to be made like a servant
- ❖ his Father rejoiced to have him home
- ❖ he was given his father's robe (a beloved son)
- ❖ This is our identity now, we are beloved sons (clothed with the robe)

Galatians 3:26-27 – we are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus

We need to hear the word about Jesus making us sons in order to believe it.

We were not just saved to go to heaven. We are saved to become sons of God, revealing His glory in the earth.

v.27 – as many of you as have been baptised into Christ have put on Christ

- You have been immersed into the Son

v.28 – no longer identified by anything else (we are all one in Christ – sons)

Luke 15

- ❖ **v.22** – put the ring on his finger (speaking of authority)
- ❖ he was entrusted with the father's authority
- ❖ sandals on his feet – to walk now as a son (dignity)

v.25-32

- ❖ the older son was angry and would not go in
- ❖ the father came out and pleaded with him
- ❖ **v.29** – *these many years I have been servicing you*
- ❖ the attitude of servants is that they should get a reward for their work

- ❖ servants work for God, sons work with God
 - ❖ servants love to do lots of things
 - ❖ sons love to do what they see their father doing (**John 5:19**)
 - ❖ **v.30** – *this son of yours* (older brother referring to the younger)
 - ❖ **v.31** – the father addresses this son as a child (the word 'son' is Greek word 'technon' meaning a child)
 - ❖ you are always with me and all that I have is yours
- God is releasing sonship in these days to break His people out of religion (serving a master).

Romans 8:14-15

- ❖ for as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God
- ❖ sons are those who are continually led (walking closely with the father)
- ❖ there will be a greater discipline, allowing you to partake of His holiness
- ❖ **v.15** - you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear
- ❖ you received the spirit of adoption (the spirit that places you as sons)
- ❖ walking as a son and working with your Father
- ❖ God wants to reveal Himself as your Father – Abba, Father
- ❖ Your identity is as a son of the Father

Tithing

Story of Abraham
Story of Jacob
Story of practice under the law
Promises of Malachi
Sharp teaching of Jesus
Deep exposition in Hebrews 7:1-10

Genesis 14:18

- ❖ Abraham's relative Lot had been captured by raiding kings in the city of Sodom
 - ❖ Abraham raised up an army from his own household
 - ❖ 318 trained men (**v.14**)
 - ❖ Pursued those kings and defeated them
- v.17** – Abraham was returning from defeating those kings
v.18 – Then Melchizedek, king of Salem (Peace), brought out bread and wine
- He was priest of God Most High
- He blessed Abraham
- v.19-20a** – powerful blessing pronounced
v.20b – Abraham gave Melchizedek a **tithe of all**

First mention of tithing, Melchizedek, bread and wine and a person blessing Abraham

This is an interesting story
This Melchizedek appears again in the Bible

A few hundred years later His name appears in one of David's Psalms

Psalms 110:4

- ❖ David speaks of the coming Messiah who will be a king, a judge and a destroyer of His enemies
- ❖ Messiah would be a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek
- ❖ Melchizedek has a priesthood
- ❖ Called "order of Melchizedek"
- ❖ Messiah would be a king and a priest

Who did Abraham give his tithe to?

Melchizedek, a king and a priest

Priesthood of Messiah is the same priesthood

Kings and priests are totally different functions

But Messiah will be a fearful king and a "priest forever in the order of Melchizedek"

Jacob

Genesis 28

- ❖ Jacob's mother had warned Jacob that Esau was plotting his death
- ❖ Jacob was on the run

v.10

- On the journey Jacob was going from Canaan north to Syria
- He needed to sleep on the way
- He found Luz, a place to sleep
- He found a hard stone for a pillow
- when he rested his head on the stone, he had an amazing dream of God, of heaven and the promise of God for his life
- that stone may well have been the remains of an altar that Abraham had built two generations previously

v.16

- surely YHWH is in this place
- "How awesome is this place, this is...the house of God, this is the gate of heaven"
- he rose early, took the stone, set it up as a pillar, poured oil on it and he called it "Bethel" = house of God
- **1 Timothy 3:15** – house of God is the church, living pillar and ground of the truth

- Jacob saw the house!
- If you come to the house of God you will find a revelation of God in the flesh (**1 Tim.3:16, Is.28:16**)

- In reality, Jacob experienced the house of God, a spiritual experience

v.20-22

- Jacob makes a commitment to be a **tithing man**
- He committed to trust YHWH
- He confessed that if YHWH would look after him, by providing for him and bringing him back to his inheritance then he will **tithe** all that God blesses him with

2 patriarchal fathers became **tithers** because of receiving revelation

- this was 400 years before the law required tithing
- they tithed at the revelation of God, at the revelation of King/Priest Messiah, at the revelation of the house of God, the foundation stone

Abraham is the father of all who believe and we are to be believers!

Under the Law

Leviticus 27:30

- ❖ tithe of the Land is holy to YHWH
- ❖ tithe = 10%, a tenth
- ❖ seeds harvested and fruit harvested were to be tithed upon
- ❖ every tenth portion belonged to YHWH
- ❖ one tenth of our increase
- ❖ in this context of agricultural community it was the seed and the fruit that was tithed

- ❖ in a cash economy we give our tithe in money – it is holy to God
- ❖ it is to be separated to God, for Him

Numbers 18:24

- ❖ tithes of children of Israel...given to Levites as an inheritance
- ❖ speaks here of "heave offering" which is generally meat
- ❖ the worshiper came and brought the offering, it was waved before YHWH by the priest, ministering on behalf of the worshiper and then he takes it home for his family to eat
- ❖ priests were from the tribe of Levi
- ❖ From Levi were priests (house of Aaron), and some were "Levites", who helped the priests
- ❖ Levites were also teachers
- ❖ They received the tithes in the rural communities (**Neh.10:37**)
- ❖ Levites had no inheritance, they were dependent upon tithes to live
- ❖ They were ministers

We are learning principles from the teaching of Moses concerning tithing and how to support ministers in the work

Deuteronomy 14:22

- ❖ tithe all increase of grain that field produces annually

v.28-29

- at end of every 3rd year, bring out tithe and this will be for Levite, stranger, fatherless and widow
- YHWH will bless this
- we give our tithe to make it possible for others to live, and YHWH will bring blessing on all that we do
- we bring our tithe to the place where God chooses His Presence to abide

Deuteronomy 26:12-15

- ❖ 3rd year, year of tithing
- ❖ We can say , "I have removed the holy tithe from my house, I have given them to the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless and the widow, according to all your commandments...nor have I forgotten them...I have not eaten any of it in mourning, nor used it for unclean use, nor used it for the dead, I have obeyed the voice of YHWH my God..."
- ❖ Do not eat your tithe!
- ❖ Give it where God has directed you to give it
- ❖ Do not use the tithes on your own needs
- ❖ Tithe is holy to YHWH
- ❖ It belongs to Him, not to us

From the beginning of this ministry nearly 20 years ago

- ❖ we agreed
- ❖ to receipt all moneys received
- ❖ account for all moneys spent

- ❖ as a ministry to tithe on all the tithe received (to support other ministers in the nations)

v.15

- We can pray "Look down from you holy habitation in heaven and bless Your people..."
- a man who is tithing faithfully should not expect drought to come
- he has the right to say to God that he has done what was required of him and now God do what you said You would do

Promises

Malachi 3

- ❖ God used Malachi to alert His people that there was a problem to their breaking His law

v.8

- God accuses them of robbing Him
- the people say "how have we robbed You?"
- they were not tithing and offering
- they were cursed
- the whole nation was robbing God
- Australia is in debt because majority of "church" people have not been faithful in the tithe
- if this nation would turn back to God and tithe we would soon get out of debt
- individual, family and national debt are the result of not honouring God with the tithe

v.10

- the answer
- bring all the tithe into the storehouse
- we are invited to "try/test" God in this
- we are to tithe out of conviction and confidence
- according to God's word we are able to tithe and expect the promises

What are the promised blessings?

- ❖ God will open windows of heaven
- ❖ Pour out many blessings, not room enough to receive the blessings

v.11

- God will rebuke the devourer for our sakes
- devourer will not destroy fruit of the ground
- vine will bear fruit
- our fruit will be protected
- in all we put our hand to, the fruit will be protected

What will be the result?

v.12

- we will have a corporate testimony
- all nations will call us blessed
- we will be a delightful land

SHILOH has been blessed because the SHILOH brethren tithe and SHILOH tithes

Under the law

Nehemiah 10:37-38

- ❖ when Jerusalem was being re-established after the exile, tithing was being restored
- ❖ firstfruits brought to priests, tithes to Levites
- ❖ Levites shall bring a tenth of the tithes to the storehouse of the temple (house) of God in Jerusalem
- ❖ Many rooms on ground floor were storerooms
- ❖ Non-perishable foodstuffs that were tithes were stored there
- ❖ The priest families on duty in Jerusalem were to eat that tithe of tithe
- ❖ This supported the High Priest and his family

We as a ministry do not have a "chief" place to send tithe of tithe to

- ❖ but we never use tithe of tithe for ourselves
- ❖ tithe of tithe is quite considerable here and allows us to support emerging apostolic ministries in the nations

New Testament

Many people argue that tithing is not in the New Testament

They say it was under law so now we do not need to do it

This is a silly argument

Are the promises of Malachi now void as of 2000 years ago?

If God promises such abundant blessings for tithing in Malachi, do you just want to reject it?

Many pastors demand giving

On 2 occasions Jesus endorsed Tithing as something that should continue

Matthew 23:1

- ❖ Jesus was speaking to the multitudes **and His disciples**
- ❖ This was teaching His disciples!
- ❖ Jesus strongly condemns practices of Pharisees and Scribes
- ❖ But He is actually talking to **His disciples** instructing them, pointing out wrong religious practices

v.23

- Pharisees, Scribes, you pay tithe of mint...
- but they neglect weightier matters of the law
- Law is all about **Justice, Mercy and faith**
- the heart of the law includes **faith**
- they were meant to receive the Law by faith, which taps us into the grace
- now through Jesus we can keep the Law, it is inside of us now
- these; Justice, mercy and faith, you should have done, without leaving tithing undone
- **continue to tithe!**
- Jesus condemned religious practices, brings us back to the heart of the law, and told us to not forget to tithe

Luke 11:42

- ❖ Pharisees tithe mint etc...
- ❖ Pass by justice and the love of God
- ❖ These you ought to have done without leaving the others undone
- ❖ Keep tithing while not passing by justice and the love of God

Tithing is in the New Testament!!

Hebrews 7

- ❖ In **Gen.14** we were introduced to Melchizedek
- ❖ The "Hebrews" were Jews who accepted Jesus as the Messiah
- ❖ They have come out of religious Judaism, based on the teaching of the Scribes and Pharisees
- ❖ Writer to Hebrews is constantly revealing mysteries of Old Testament and how they are fulfilled in the New Testament

v.1

- Melchizedek blessed Abraham

v.2

- Abraham gave a tenth of spoils to Melchizedek
- this was a summary of **Gen.14:18-20**
- now the writer begins to exegete the story to show us fulfilment in New Testament
- "Melchizedek" = King of righteousness
- He was "King of Salem", "Salem" means "Peace"

v.3

- Melchizedek has no father or mother
- no genealogy
- no beginning of days
- no end of life, He must be still alive!!
- He is made like the Son of God, what you expect in the term "Son of God" is all found in this person "Melchizedek"
- remains a priest continually, an eternal priesthood
- under the law the priests received the tithes
- Melchizedek as King and Priest received tithes
- Blessing was the role of the Priest
- after the blessing, Abraham tithes

v.4

- Melchizedek is "great" because Abraham **tithed** to Him
- Melchizedek is much greater than Abraham!!

v.5

- those of sons of Levi (priesthood) have a command to receive **tithes** according to law, from their brethren
- Levi though was from loins of Abraham
- the writer is tussling with this issue
- Jews were happy to give tithes to Levites because law says so
- but great great Grandfather of the Levites tithed to someone **greater**

- you do not tithe to a ministry, you tithe to Jesus, you tithe to a greater than Abraham

- our daddy Abraham showed us what to do

- when you get a revelation of God in the flesh, you tithe to that One!

v.6

- This Abraham tithed to One whose genealogy was not derived from the brethren

v.7

- Lesser is always blessed by the greater

- Melchizedek is greater than Abraham

v.8

- under law, mortal men receive tithes

- but One who receives tithes from Abraham it is witnessed that He lives!

- He is still alive today!!

- We can give our tithes to Him today also

v.9

- Levi, through Abraham, being in his loins, paid tithes to Melchizedek

Babylon is Fallen

We are in a significant time of history in Australia and in the nations.

Babylon has fallen. We are on the winning team. Knowing this will help us persevere through the storms.

The book of Revelation shows that no government of this world will be able to rule forever. It shows us the ultimate triumph of Jesus the Messiah.

The Word of God is powerful. We thank God for all those who translated and preserved the Word of God throughout history.

The Word of God causes Babylon to fall. Nothing can stand against the truth of the Word.

When the people of any land begin to know the Word of God, Babylon falls.

Genesis 4:16-17

- ❖ Cain went out from the presence of Yahweh and dwelt in the land of Nod (wandering)
- ❖ The beginnings of another city
- ❖ A city built by a man who went out from the presence of Yahweh
- ❖ Enoch means initiated or dedicated
- ❖ This city was dedicated to life outside of Yahweh – dedicated to the flesh

Genesis 11:4

- ❖ Babel means the same as Babylon
- ❖ Their goal was to build a name for themselves
- ❖ They had their own agenda
- ❖ A tower whose top was in the heavens
- ❖ **Romans 10:6-8** – trying to reach the heavens through man-made religious practices, delving into witchcraft and dark arts to try to find that spiritual realm for which they long

Genesis 11

- ❖ v.5 – there was a city and a tower
 - ❖ v.9 – its name was called Babel which means confusion
 - ❖ Babylon is a place of confusion
 - ❖ They are confused because they don't know who God is
- Today people are full of confusion, there are no absolutes.

Isaiah 13:19

- ❖ Babylon was called the 'glory of kingdoms'
- ❖ It is the mother of all the kingdoms that this world has produced apart from God
- ❖ The head of the statue in the book of Daniel was Babylon
- ❖ The destiny of Babylon is destruction (like Sodom and Gomorrah)

The western nations have been so prosperous that they have forgotten God. Evil is being called good and good evil.

Isaiah 21:9

- ❖ Babylon is fallen
- ❖ All the carved images of her gods He has broken to the ground

1 John 5:20-21

- the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding that we may know Him who is true and we are in Him who is true
- this is the true God and eternal life
- little children keep yourselves from idols

Keep yourself away from anything that is not the true God.

The idols will be broken down through the preaching of the true God – Jesus the Messiah.

Idols bring confusion.

When the true God enters in, He breaks through the confusion. (**1Cor14:33**)

Daniel 2:31-35

- ❖ men throughout history have been looking for the hidden wisdom, but it is only found in Christ
- ❖ we can call on the God of heaven wherever we are
- ❖ God protected and raised up Daniel in the midst of Babylon
- ❖ The stone which struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth
- ❖ The Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, we are in Him who is true
- ❖ **V.44-45** – all these kingdoms will be defeated by the stone
- ❖ The dream is certain and its interpretation sure
- ❖ The truth is found in the stone, that stone is God manifest in the flesh (Jesus the Messiah)
- ❖ Not one trace of those kingdoms was left
- ❖ **Rev 11:15** – the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ (a great mountain filling the whole earth – living stones being built up a spiritual house – **1Pet.2:4-5**)

Basic principles of the world (the principles by which Babylon works)

Colossians 2:8-10

- ❖ philosophy and empty deceit
- ❖ directly opposed to Christ
- ❖ basic principles of the world
- ❖ traditions of men
- ❖ not according to Christ

v.9 - we are to come out of these things and into Christ

- In Christ dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily

v.15 – through the cross Jesus destroyed Babylon's power (they were disarmed)

v.16 – the substance (reality) is Christ

v.20 – we have died to the basic principles of this world (through believing in Him and being baptised into Christ)

What principles do we need to be governed by? The principles of Christ
(**Hebrews 5:12-6:3**)

- ❖ The basic principles of this world will be completely burned up (**2Pet.3:10-13**)

Revelation 14

- ❖ we have been redeemed
- ❖ we follow the Lamb, chaste virgins. Singing a new song (**v.1-5**)
- ❖ **v.6** – an angel (messenger) with the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth (**Mark16:15-16**)
- ❖ **v.7** – fear God and give glory to Him for the hour of His judgment has come
- ❖ **v.8** – another messenger follows declaring that Babylon is fallen
- ❖ **The destruction of Babylon follows the preaching of the everlasting gospel**

Matthew 24:14

- ❖ this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached to all nations as a witness, then the end will come
 - ❖ Babylon is fallen
- Noah through his preaching condemned the world

Revelation 14

- ❖ **V.12-13** - in the preaching of the everlasting gospel some may lose their lives
- ❖ we are blessed if we die in the Lord from now on

Revelation 17:1

- ❖ the judgment of the great harlot
- ❖ the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her
committed fornication – used metaphorically to describe spiritual fornication, that is, idolatry
- ❖ **v.3** – a woman full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns
- ❖ **v.4** – wicked abominations
- ❖ **v.6** – the woman drunk with the blood of the saints/martyrs – there will be martyrdom in overcoming Babylon
- ❖ **v.14** – the Lamb will overcome them for He is Lord of lords and King of kings
- ❖ those with Him are called, chosen and faithful

Revelation 18

- ❖ the earth illuminated with glory
- ❖ Babylon the great is fallen
- ❖ **V.4** – Come out of her My people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues
- ❖ Many in the “church” are caught in Babylon, trying to be “contemporary” and trading the anointing for a manufactured atmosphere
- ❖ Stick with the Lamb
- ❖ **V.20** – God has avenged you (the holy apostles and prophets) on her

God is restoring apostles and prophets today to the church. Babylon will fall as the mysteries of Christ are revealed again to the church and to the world.

Ephesians 3:5

❖ this mystery has been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets
This mystery will be made known by the church to principalities and powers
(**Ephesians 3:10**) and Babylon will fall, confusion will cease

Perilous Times

2 Timothy 3:1

- perilous times will come in the last days
- "perilous" – harsh, savage, difficult, dangerous, painful, fierce, grievous, hard to deal with, a society barren of virtue but abounding with vices
- **Genesis 6:5-7 (Matt. 24:37-39)** God saw that the thoughts of hearts was only evil continually
- most of us would never have dreamed that now children would be taught in public schools that their sexuality and gender is "fluid" that they can choose what gender they are
- we live in these days
- if anyone speaks virtuously like Pastor Margaret Court in Australia, who has spoken that she believes that marriage is as the Bible says, she is spoken against all over the world
- Pastor Margaret Court was actually speaking in accordance with the law at the moment
- "marriage" cannot actually be changed, it is what it is

v.2-4

- The type of people inhabiting the earth in the last days
- 18 negative words describing the perilous times we face, the way people will behave

v.5

- some of these people have a form of godliness but deny the power
- this includes people who "go to church"
- people who attend funeral services called "church"
- we are not to affiliate with such
- from such people turn away, do not compromise

Paul got away with being "religiously incorrect" (**Acts 19:8-10**)

2 Timothy 3:6-7

- always learning but never coming to the knowledge of the truth

v.8-9

- educated leaders are trying to tell believers they are stupid
- Jannes and Jambres were magicians before Pharaoh
- first 2 or 3 plagues, they could copy
- they had a little power through the occult, even doing signs and wonders in "the church"
- have to be very careful
- be discerning by the Holy Spirit, where did people get their "anointing"
- these men are disapproved concerning the faith

- they do not revere the Word and do not know who Jesus Christ is

What is the answer to living in Perilous Times?

Practical discipleship

2 Timothy 3:10

- we are to carefully follow the doctrine and lifestyle of the apostle!

Carefully follow:

- i) doctrine of the apostle = the gospel, the teaching of the apostles (**Acts 2:42**)
- ii) the manner of life, we need apostolic leaders who set the example of how to live for Jesus
- ❖ **Heb. 13:7** – remember those leading you...whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct
- ❖ **"follow me as I follow Christ"**
 - iii) the purpose – to spread the knowledge of the glory of the Eternal God across the earth as the waters cover the sea (**Hab. 2:14**)
 - iv) the faith – **Jude 3**, we should contend earnestly for the faith, the apostles continued daily teaching and preaching Jesus the Christ (**Acts 5:42**)
 - v) longsuffering – is necessary for living in these days as it is not easy, even travel is becoming more difficult
- ❖ Word Wealth in Heb. 6:12 "longsuffering" – "long temper", the opposite of getting angry quickly, forbearance, tolerance
 - vi) love – **2 Peter 1:5-7** – add...love, this is the expression of a mature Christian who is able to lay down their life for the brethren
 - vii) perseverance – enduring through the process
 - viii) persecutions – pressures, **2 Thess. 1:4** – patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, this counts us worthy of the kingdom
 - ix) afflictions – **Col. 1:24** – fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ...Paul carried a great burden for the churches, willing to suffer and bear the burden of fathering churches/brethren
- ❖ **Col. 2:1-2** – Paul carried a great "conflict" in his heart for the brethren to get the "knowledge of the mystery of God, both of Father and of Christ" (**1 Tim. 3:16**)

Out of all the afflictions Jesus delivered Paul and He will deliver us – He will show us the way out and the way forward

2 Timothy 3:12

- all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution

v. 13

- evil men and impostors will grow worse
- many deceiving and being deceived

Disciples must continue in the things they have received and learnt

Isaiah 50:4

- ❖ YHWH has given me the tongue of the "disciple"
- ❖ That the disciple should know how to speak
- ❖ Awakens my ear to hear as the "disciple"
- ❖ Not rebellious even in persecution (**v.5-6**)

Seasoned disciples have the tongue of a disciple

Disciples can expect to wake up every morning and hear the Word

Listen for that word!

2 Timothy 3:15

- we are to know the Holy Scriptures because they make us wise for salvation
- we are to receive the fully reliable Word of God
- we need to be grounded and founded in the Word so we can teach nations the Word of God

v.16

- All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness

What is the next step for living in perilous times?

2 Timothy 4:1

- We are charged!
- before God and the Lord Jesus Christ
- Preach the Word
- convince – do your best
- rebuke – not so popular for these times but let's do it!
- exhort – encourage, it is prophetic word that brings people hope
- do all this with all longsuffering, hang in there, do not give up
- do this with teaching – filling in the detail, showing fulfilment of all things in Christ

v.4

- many are not serious for the Word
- many do not even take Bibles to church meetings
- most Christian children do not have regular Bible reading in the home

v.5

- we are to be watchful in all things, endure
- we are to do the work of the evangelist
- this is to prove the ministry, will our faith work in someone else's life?
- look for opportunities to lead others to Jesus

2 Timothy 4:9-16

- Timothy and Titus are different letters as they are personal letters rather than to congregations

- we find out some interesting things
- he is not talking about churches here
- Paul is talking about sons
- Paul is able to conduct his ministry through sons

- ❖ Demas forsook Paul
- ❖ Crescens to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia on mission
- ❖ Luke stayed with Paul
- ❖ Mark is back in fellowship with Paul and Mark is useful in the ministry
- ❖ Tychicus sent to Ephesus
- ❖ Tells Timothy to bring the cloak, the winter coat, and bring the latest teaching manuals (parchments)
- ❖ Alexander did harm and he asks the Lord to repay him according to his works
- ❖ It is an issue against the Word of God
- ❖ The Lord stood with Paul

1 Timothy 4:1

- Spirit foretold that in latter times many would leave the faith
- heeding doctrines of demons and deceiving spirits
- be careful of getting hung up about food
- God created food to be enjoyed and be thankful to God for it
- all food is sanctified by the Word of God and prayer
- also "those who forbid to marry" is a false doctrine – this has resulted in Australia of much sexual abuse of children under the care of those "priests"
- general reputation of the church has gone into the gutter as a result
- the issue today is the compromise of many churches practicing the "m" of same sex people
- churches have been blessing immorality

What is the answer to this?

1 Timothy 3:15-16

- We are to know how to conduct ourselves in the house of God
- the answer is coming to know and confess the mystery of Godliness
- we know who Jesus is
- in Jesus God manifested in the flesh

1 Timothy 4:6

- good doctrine is not just learning something
- it is only good doctrine when it is followed
- we can follow good doctrine and bear fruit with it

We have been speaking of the "Discipleship Revival", learning the lifestyle of disciples

Jesus commanded us to baptise

We follow the book of Acts of how the disciples followed the command to baptise – in the name of Jesus

1 Timothy 4:12

- be an example to the believers in word, conduct (behaviour), love (life laid down for the brethren), spirit (kingdom of God is in the Spirit), faith (Jesus Christ is only foundation), purity (moral excellence)

v.13

- 3 things in every meeting of congregation
i) reading – public reading of Scripture
ii) exhortation – preaching (inspirational word that edifies, builds up, encourages, comforts)
iii) doctrine – teaching (line upon line)

v14

❖ stir up gifts
❖ **1 Cor.14:1** – desire spiritual gifts

v.15

- meditate on these things, do not let these things pass over you
- give yourself to them

v.16

- continue in them (not just a doctrine you learn but you walk in it)
- as you do this you will save yourself and those who hear you

2 Timothy 4:17

- Paul was on his own but the Lord stood with him and strengthened him
- message was fully preached through him
- he was delivered from mouth of lion, from circumstances outside of his control

v.22

- The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit
- we need to know the strength of the Lord and His presence with us, in your very spirit
- Grace be with you
- Amen!

Ministry of Prophet in New Testament

Genesis 20:7

- ❖ first mention of word "prophet"
- ❖ Abraham and Abimelech
- ❖ Abimelech had taken Sarah as he thought she was Abraham's sister and not his wife
- ❖ God warned Abimelech in a dream
- ❖ God told Abimelech that Abraham was a prophet
- ❖ Prophet has a ministry of prayer and intercession
- ❖ God told Abimelech to get prayer from Abraham to receive restoration

Exodus 7:1-2

- ❖ God made Moses as God to Pharaoh and Aaron was as a prophet to Moses
- ❖ Aaron was the mouthpiece, only spoke the words Moses told him to speak
- ❖ Prophets should only speak what they are commanded to say

Deuteronomy 18:15

- ❖ YHWH would raise up a prophet like Moses
- ❖ Moses is called a prophet
- ❖ There would come another

v.18

- YHWH said He would raise up a prophet like Moses from among the brethren
- in our Bible there is a capital 'P' for Prophet – speaking of a greater prophet

Deuteronomy 34:10-11

- ❖ prophets function in signs and wonders
- ❖ YHWH knew Moses as a Prophet face to face
- ❖ Prophets have an intimate relationship with the Lord

Deuteronomy 18:18

- ❖ if someone is raised up from in the midst of the brethren they are well known
- ❖ prophets are not lone rangers
- ❖ God puts the words in the prophet's mouth, they are obedient to speak what they are commanded
- ❖ We should listen to what prophets say
- ❖ Prophets should not speak their own interpretation but simply what they hear
- ❖ They are to be accountable and submitted in the Body

Who is the Prophet that Moses spoke of?

Jesus!

- ❖ Moses operated in signs and wonders
- ❖ Jesus did also – Jesus stopped the Storm
- ❖ Moses spoke with God face to face
- ❖ Jesus had intimate relationship with Father – **John 5:17,19**

- ❖ Jesus was raised up from the midst of the brethren
- ❖ Moses and Jesus both had powerful prayer lives and carried people of God in their hearts
- ❖ Prophets carry the burden of the people in their heart

Matthew 21:11

- ❖ context of Jesus coming into Jerusalem
- ❖ the people said "This is Jesus, the Prophet from Nazareth..."

Luke 24:18-19

- ❖ on the road to Emmaus
- ❖ things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a Prophet...mighty in deed and word before the people

John 4:16-19

- ❖ Samaritan woman meeting the Messiah!
- ❖ Jesus told her to call her husband
- ❖ Jesus knew her marital and living situation supernaturally
- ❖ She said "Sir, I perceive You are a Prophet"
- ❖ This opened her heart to receive the revelation that Jesus was the Messiah
- ❖ The result of this was a whole city opened to the receive the Messiah

Calling and ordaining of a prophet

Jeremiah 1:4

- ❖ before I formed you in the womb I knew you – God knows us
- ❖ before you were born I sanctified, set you apart
- ❖ "I ordained you a prophet to the nations"
- ❖ Prophets commissioned to the nations, true prophets will be apostolic, reaching nations

v.6-8

- prophets are to do what they are commanded
- they are only to speak what God speaks
- prophets are God's voice, God's mouth in the earth

v.9-10

- God put His words in the prophet's mouth
- a prophet roots out, pulls down and destroys false doctrines
- prophets build up in the knowledge of Christ
- In Old T they pulled down false teachings and strongholds and brought people back to law of Moses, God's instruction, planting the word of God

Numbers 12:6

- ❖ YHWH makes Himself known to prophets in dreams and/or visions

"Prophet" – SC#5030 Hb. "nabiy" – a prophet, an inspired man, can be true or false

- ❖ SC#5012 Hb. "naba" – to prophesy, to speak or sing by inspiration, in prediction or simple discourse, most frequently used to describe the function of the true prophet as he speaks God's message to the people under the influence of the Divine Spirit

Prophesying was a task that prophets could not avoid (e.g. Jonah)

Amos 3:7

- ❖ God does nothing without revealing His secrets to the prophets
- ❖ Prophets cannot avoid speaking

SC# 2374 Hb. "chozeh" – seer, a beholder in vision, one who sees a vision, not with a natural eye, but with the spiritual and intellectual faculties

SC# 7203 Hb. "ro-eh" – seer, seeing, e.g. experiencing, as a noun means *vision*

- ❖ Many prophets experienced the vision, were caught up in the vision

1 Chronicles 29:29

- Samuel the Seer, Nathan the Prophet, Gad the Seer
- all three different words for prophets used
- these are describing different functions of prophets

Can women be prophets?

Exodus 15:20

- ❖ Miriam, Moses' sister, called a "prophetess"

Judges 4:4

- ❖ Deborah, a prophetess

2 Kings 22:14

- Huldah the prophetess
- she spoke as God's mouth piece

Nehemiah 6:14

- ❖ prophetess Noadiah

Isaiah 8:3

- ❖ Isaiah's wife was a prophetess

Luke 2:36

- ❖ Anna a prophetess

Male or female can be prophets

Anna the prophetess

- ❖ called by name and known by God

Luke 2:37-38

- ❖ she is a woman, a woman in her old age

- ❖ she stays close to God, intimate relationship with God
- ❖ her place is in the house of God
- ❖ she served God continuously with prayer and fasting, this is where she was empowered
- ❖ continually bringing the people before the Lord
- ❖ as a prophet she recognized the Messiah as a baby!
- ❖ She recognized the visitation of God
- ❖ She spoke of Him to all those looking for redemption – PROPHETS SPEAK ABOUT JESUS!
- ❖ Prophets need to know what God is doing and saying today, now, at the present time
- ❖ Anna perceived God in the flesh of that baby and began to speak

John the Baptist

- ❖ prophet called by God before he was born

Malachi 4:5-6

- ❖ God will send Elijah the prophet...

Luke 1:17

- ❖ He, John, would go before the face of the Lord, in the Spirit and power of Elijah, to turn hearts of fathers to children...to make ready a people...for the Lord
- ❖ This is the role of prophets, making ready a people prepared for the Lord
- ❖ John went before to prepare a way for Jesus the Messiah
- ❖ Prophetic ministry is meant to prepare and make way for the apostolic ministry to follow

New Testament prophets

Ephesians 4:7

- ❖ Jesus died, buried, rose and ascended
- ❖ Each one given grace according to measure of Christ's gift

v.8

When ascended...gave gifts to men, the gifts of Christ

v.11

- He Himself gave some to be...prophets

v.12-13

- to equip, build up, do work of ministry and bring church to maturity
- if received one of these gifts, it was a plan, an ordination that happened before the world was created

Gift lists

"prophecy" mentioned in two lists

"Prophet" mentioned in two also

- ❖ functioning in "prophecy" does not necessarily mean a "prophet"

Romans 12:6-8

- ❖ gifts...prophecy
- ❖ 7 gifts here can be referred to as "creational" or "motivational"
- ❖ Even before being born again these gifts are resident in people

- ❖ "prophecy" in this sense is the intuitive gift of people who have insight and "know" things

1 Corinthians 12:7-10

- gifts of Holy Spirit
- must be born again and filled with Holy Spirit to function in these gifts
- Spirit gives these gifts...gift of prophecy
- 9 gifts mentioned here
- this gift of prophecy is the ability to speak a prophetic word by the Holy Spirit
- very often this prophecy will be a portion of the message
- functioning in these gifts do not make people a prophet, as anyone with Holy Spirit can function in these

1 Corinthians 14:3

- prophecy will bring edification, exhortation and comfort

Ministry gift of Prophet

Ephesians 4:11

- ❖ Jesus gave some to be...prophets
- ❖ These gifts release grace to us
- ❖ The ministry of prophet here is the "office" of prophet

1 Corinthians 12:28

- God's plan and order in the church
- These are God's appointments
- 1st apostles, 2nd prophets...
- God sets prophets in the church as He pleases

Ephesians 2:20

- ❖ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets
- ❖ prophets are needed to build and strengthen foundations in the church
- ❖ prophets are a foundational ministry

Ephesians 3:5

- ❖ prophets are anointed to have revelation of the mystery of Christ
- ❖ grace has been given to make known the mystery, making known deeper mysteries of God's word

Acts 11:27

- ❖ prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch
- ❖ prophets are sent
- ❖ prophets need to be sent from an established base, not doing their own thing

v.28

- Agabus is named, he is known
- he is known as a prophet, therefore he is accountable
- he showed by the Spirit there would be a famine
- he brings this word in the midst of the brethren, he is foretelling the future
- the prophecy was true, this famine happened

- part of ministry of prophet is to tell things to come

v.29

- disciples received the word, and they agreed to do something responding to the word

Acts 13:1-2

- ❖ At Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers
- ❖ Prophets speak the Word of the Lord
- ❖ Ministering to the Lord and fasting
- ❖ Out of that place the Holy Spirit spoke and gave instructions
- ❖ Prophets spend time ministering to the Lord
- ❖ God made His will known through the prophet/s

Acts 15:22,32

- ❖ Judas and Silas were leading men among the brethren
- ❖ They were also called "prophets"
- ❖ Prophets were part of eldership team
- ❖ It was a ministry of the word, exhorting with many words

Prophets bring revelation of the Word

Ephesians 3:5

- ❖ Spirit reveals mystery of Christ to prophets
- ❖ It is a ministry of the Word

Acts 21:10

- ❖ a certain prophet named Agabus
- ❖ came from Judea
- ❖ he received a prophetic word for Paul
- ❖ First time we see Agabus he "showed by the Spirit"
- ❖ This time it was "Thus says the Holy Spirit..."
- ❖ Prophets can speak out of vision, dream or Word
- ❖ This is an example of a personal prophecy, and foretell future

The prophetic word brings confirmation

Acts 20:22-23

- ❖ Paul knew that chains and tribulations awaited him
- ❖ Agabus' word strengthened and confirmed to Paul what God had already spoken to him
- ❖ It did not cause him to fear

In summary

- ❖ prophets are called and ordained by God
- ❖ God speaks through dream, vision, word to prophets
- ❖ They can foretell the future and bring personal prophecy
- ❖ They are God's voice, spokesman
- ❖ Prophets are in the body and are apostolic
- ❖ They lay down their lives for the brethren through prayer and fasting

- ❖ They are humble, submitted, accountable, bringing illumination and revelation of the Word
- ❖ Appointed and anointed by Holy Spirit

The Heart of a Martyr

If we are going to achieve the purpose of God, there needs to be a people who have the heart of a martyr.

What are you willing to die for?

What you are willing to die for is what you will truly live for.

Phil 1:19-21 – to live is Christ and to die is gain

- ❖ Paul was completely committed and submitted to the purposes of God
 - ❖ That Messiah be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death
- Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego also had the heart of a martyr. Whether God was going to deliver them or not, they were not going to bow down.

Phil 1:21-22

- ❖ living was all about the Messiah
- ❖ to die was gain
- ❖ to live on in the flesh would mean fruit from his labour
- ❖ Paul had a choice – to live on or to depart and be with Christ
- ❖ To remain on in the flesh was more needful
- ❖ Knowing this, Paul knew that he would then remain and continue with them

Will you allow God to be magnified in your body whether by life or death?

Revelation 17:6

- ❖ Babylon gets drunk on the blood of God's people
- ❖ Babylon is after us

2 Timothy 3:12 – whoever desires to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution

What are you living for? Are you willing to die for it?

The way we live for Jesus is going to affect all those around us.

We are being sent as witnesses.

Martyr has the same meaning as witness.

Acts 1:8

- ❖ the Holy Spirit empowers us to witness, even if that means death
- ❖ never denying the truth and the reality that we know is in Jesus

Martyr – Gk *martus* SC#3144

Means a witness and by analogy a martyr, one testifying to what they have seen or heard, one who bears witness by his death

Revelation 1:5 (Word Wealth - *martus*)

- ❖ one who witnesses for Christ by his death

Our heritage in Christ is one of martyrdom.

Many people suffered and died in order to bring the Bible to us – we need to value it.

What is the legacy that others will be able to take from us?

Christians under the Roman Empire kept declaring that Jesus is King. It was for this reason that they were put on trial, but they did not deny the Lord Jesus. They were willing to die for the truth. They strengthened one another and stood with each other – they were unafraid to die.

Many came to faith because of the blood (testimony) of the martyrs.

God is restoring the spirit of martyrdom to his people today.

God wants us to get this spirit into our hearts.

Acts 22:17-20

- ❖ Paul was in a trance
- ❖ The Lord warned him to get out of Jerusalem quickly
- ❖ Paul remembered when he had stood and consented to Stephen's death

Acts 9:5

- ❖ Saul's conscience was being pricked, from the moment he had witnessed and consented to the stoning of Stephen
- ❖ It was hard for him to kick against the goads
- ❖ He had witnessed Stephen's face and heard his words (seeing the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God)

Never underestimate the power of when you stand for Jesus and share what you know to be true.

It will prick the conscience of those around you.

There is power in your witness to Jesus.

1 Timothy 1:15 – Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am chief (Paul had been violently arrogant and insolent before meeting Christ **v.13**)

Stand your ground and declare Jesus boldly. We have received the power of the Holy Spirit for this purpose.

Martyrdom breaks the power of the devil. The devil had nothing on Stephen – he saw the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.

Stephen had overcome.

Stephen's fearless witness to Jesus broke the power of the devil on Saul's life.

God uses martyrs to reveal the works of darkness and judge the secrets of men's hearts.

The greatest demonstration of this was Jesus' death on the cross.

Revelation 1:5

- ❖ Jesus the Messiah the faithful witness (martyr)

The foundation of our life in Christ is built on martyrdom. Jesus was willing to lay down His life for the sake of the witness that He held.

In the garden when they came to arrest him, Jesus declared, "I AM"

Revelation 3:14

- ❖ the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the beginning of the Creation of God

Jesus' Witness

Matthew 16:24-25 – if you lose your life for Jesus you will find it (real freedom)

John 18:33-37

- ❖ Jesus witnessed the good confession
- ❖ Jesus knew it was His time (**2 Tim 4:6** – Paul also knew when it was his time)
- ❖ Jesus was not caught on the defensive
- ❖ Jesus knew that His kingdom was not of this world
- ❖ Jesus said, "For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth"

John 19:5-16

- ❖ Pilate said, 'Behold the Man!'
- ❖ They cried out, 'Crucify Him!'
- ❖ Pilate was afraid when he heard the saying about Jesus being the Son of God
- ❖ Pilate wanted to know who Jesus was, where He was from
- ❖ In the midst of a battle we also need to know where we are from (who we are)
- ❖ **V.11** – Jesus said, 'you could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above'
- ❖ Pilate had no power to cause fear in Jesus
- ❖ The devil works through fear and intimidation
- ❖ Jesus knew who was above and He witnessed the good confession to Pontius Pilate

Hebrews

Ch 11 – heroes of the faith

Ch 12:1 – we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses

- ❖ we are surrounded by the testimonies of faithful witnesses

1 Chronicles 11 – David's 3 mighty men

- they were willing to risk their own lives to go and get their king a drink from the well of Bethlehem

- Are you willing to risk your life just to get your king a drink?

Revelation 11

- ❖ don't stay in the outer court of the tabernacle
- ❖ it will be given to the nations who don't know God
- ❖ God will give power to 2 witnesses
- ❖ These 2 witnesses are 2 churches

- ❖ Lampstands = churches (**Rev 1:20**)
 - ❖ An ecclesia that is witnessing
 - ❖ Fire proceeds out of their mouth (**Jer 23:29** – is not My word like a fire...)
 - ❖ There is protection over this witnessing church militant
 - ❖ This witnessing church is walking in great power and authority (walking as sons of God)
- V.7** – when they finish their testimony, the beast will make war with them, overcome them and kill them
- ❖ the city is spiritually called Sodom and Egypt (violently aggressive spirit) (v.8)
 - ❖ this same spirit was behind wanting to crucify Jesus
- v.8** there is martyrdom involved in being part of this witnessing church
- ❖ we have a hope that even though we die, yet shall we live
- v.9** – their bodies left 3 and a half days
- ❖ **The spirit of prophecy is the testimony (witness) of Jesus** – they are two prophets, filled with the testimony of Jesus
- V.10** – people will rejoice over their death
- V.11** – after 3 and a half days the breath of life entered them and they stood on their feet
- ❖ the church cannot be killed by killing bodies
 - ❖ nothing can stop the resurrection from taking place
 - ❖ Even if we die, we will be back
 - ❖ Great fear fell on those who saw them
 - ❖ They were glorified
- V.15** – the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ

Who wants to be a part of this witnessing church?

We bring Babylon down by being able to declare and witness to the truth even unto death.

If you continue

Hebrews 3:6

- ❖ Christ, a Son over His own house, whose house we are
- ❖ IF we hold fast the confidence and rejoicing of hope firm to end
- ❖ **Heb.11:1** – faith is the confidence
- ❖ through faith we receive evidence of the reality of the kingdom
- ❖ “confidence” – in latin it means to believe in you
- ❖ “rejoicing of the hope” – of what will take us through to the end
- ❖ Faith, hope and love take us through into the kingdom

Matthew 10:22

- ❖ and you will be hated by all for Jesus name
- ❖ He who **endures** to the end will be saved

Matthew 24:9-14

- ❖ endure till the end and you will be saved

Ephesians 2:10

- ❖ we are created in Christ Jesus for a purpose – to do good works which God prepared beforehand for us to walk in

John 8:31-32

- ❖ If you continue (keep on going) in the Word, you will be Jesus’ disciples
- ❖ Continue in discipleship
- ❖ Continue to get your children in the Word

John 15:9

- ❖ continue in God’s love
- ❖ move on in God’s love
- ❖ continue in the love of Jesus

Acts 13:43

- ❖ they persuaded them to continue (keep on going) in the grace of God

Acts 14:22

- ❖ continue in the faith
- ❖ stay in the Scriptures, believing and teaching them

Colossians 1:23

- ❖ continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel
- ❖ blessed with a holy life, blameless and above reproach

Colossians 4:2

- ❖ continue earnestly in prayer
- ❖ keep on going persevering in prayer
- ❖ pray in tongues is the best way to continue in prayer

1 Timothy 2:15

- continue in faith, love and holiness with self control

1 Timothy 4:16

- continue in them (doctrine and taking heed to yourself) and you will save both yourself and those who hear you