

The Greater Light

The End Time Messenger

'... Let all have Faith. Turn to The Lord and obey His Commands. Heed Repentance and Baptism that The Way of The Lord shall be among men. His Kingdom shall fill the whole earth. The hands must be laid upon all that THE GREATER LIGHT might come to them'
Message 53:3

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“I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.”

- Psalm 91:2 & 11



The Church of Christ With The Elijah Message

THE ASSURED WAY OF THE LORD, Inc.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE AMERICAS, AFRICA, ASIA, AUSTRALIA, AND EUROPE

Articles of Faith and Practice

1. We believe in God the Eternal Father, who only is Supreme; Creator of the universe; Ruler and Judge of all; unchangeable and without respect of persons.
2. We believe in Jesus Christ the manifestation of God in flesh, who lived, suffered, and died for all mankind; whom we own as our only Leader, Witness, and Commander.
3. We believe in the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of Truth, the Comforter, which searcheth the deep things of God, brings to our minds things which are past, reveals this to come, and is the medium by which we receive the revelation of Jesus Christ.
4. We believe that men will be punished for their own sins and not for Adam's transgression, and that as a consequence of the atonement of Christ "all little children are alive in Christ, and also all they that are without the Law. For the power of redemption cometh on all they that have no law; wherefore, he that is not condemned, or he that is under no condemnation, cannot repent, and unto such, baptism availeth nothing." (Moroni 8:22)
5. We believe that through the atonement of Christ all men may be saved by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel; viz.: Faith in God and in the Lord Jesus Christ; Repentance and Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; Laying on of Hands for: (a) Ordination; (b) Blessing of Children: (c) Confirmation and the gift of the Holy Ghost (Acts 8:17); (d) Healing of the sick.
6. We believe in the literal second coming and millennial reign of Jesus Christ; in the resurrection of the Dead, and in Eternal Judgment; that men will be rewarded or punished according to the good or evil they may have done.
7. We believe in the powers and gifts of the everlasting Gospel; viz.: The word of wisdom; the word of knowledge; the gift of faith; the gift of healing; working of miracles; prophecy; discerning of spirits; divers kinds of tongues; interpretation of tongues.
8. We believe the fruits of the Spirit to be love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance.
9. We believe that in the Bible is contained the Word of God; that The Record of the Nephites is the added witness for Christ; and these contain the "fullness of the gospel."
10. We believe in the principle of continuous revelation; that the canon of scripture is not full, that God inspires men in every age and among all people, and that He speaks when, where, and through whom He may choose.
11. We believe that where there are six or more regularly baptized members, one of whom is an elder, there the Church exists with full power of Church extension when acting in harmony with the Law of God.
12. We believe that man must be called of God by revelation and ordained by those having authority, to enable him to preach the Gospel and administer the Ordinances thereof.
13. We believe in the same Church organization as existed in the time of Christ and His apostles. The highest office in the Church is that of an apostle, of whom there are twelve, who constitute special witnesses for Jesus Christ. They have the Missionary Supervision and the General Watchcare of all the Churches.
14. The primary function of the General Church, of which each Local Church is a component part, is missionary and the building up and extension of the Kingdom of God in all the world.
15. We believe that Local Churches should govern their own affairs and that General Church officials should not dominate or interfere therewith. On invitation such general officers may, with propriety, give counsel and assistance. Local congregations are subject to the Articles of Faith and Practice and must be governed thereby.
16. We believe The Church of Christ comprehends the true brotherhood of man where each esteems his brother as himself and wherein the Divine command to "love your neighbor as yourself" is demonstrated by the prevalence of social equality.
17. We believe that all men are stewards under God and answerable to Him not only for the distribution of accumulated wealth, but for the manner in which such wealth is secured. The primary purpose of stewardship is not the increase of church revenue or the mere contribution of money by those who have to those who have not, but to bring men to a realization of the common fatherhood and the universal brotherhood of man in all the affairs and expressions of life, and to maintain such social adjustments that each may enjoy the bounty and gifts of God, and be free to exercise his talents and ability to enrich the life of all.
18. We believe that men should labor for their own support and that of their dependents. Ministers of the Gospel are not absolved from this responsibility, but when chosen or appointed by the Church to devote their entire time to missionary work, their families are to be provided for out of the General Church fund. The admonition of Christ that ministry should not provide purse or scrip for their journey, but good trusting in God and the people, is applicable.
19. We believe that the temporal affairs of the General Church are to be administered by the general bishopric under the supervision and direction of general conferences of the Church. The temporal affairs of the Local Churches shall be administered by local bishops under the supervision and direction of the local congregations.
20. We believe that marriage is ordained of God, and that the Law of God provides for but one companion in wedlock for either man or woman. In case of a breach of this covenant the innocent one may remarry.
21. We believe oppose to war. Men are not justified in taking up of arms against their fellows except as a last resort in defense of their lives and to preserve their liberty.
22. We believe in the literal gathering of Israel, and in the restoration of the ten lost tribes.
23. We believe a Temple will be built in this generation, in Independence, Missouri, wherein Christ will reveal Himself and endow His servants whom He chooses with power to preach the Gospel in all the world to every kindred, tongue, and people, that the promise of God to Israel may be fulfilled.
24. We believe that New Jerusalem shall be built upon this land "unto the remnant of the seed of Joseph, (Ether 6:6-8; III Nephi 10.1-4), which city shall be built, beginning at the Temple Lot."
25. We believe that ministry and membership should abstain from the use of tobacco, intoxicating liquors and narcotics, and should not affiliate with any society which administer oaths or covenants in conflict with the Law of God, or which interfere with their duties as freemen and citizens.

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Message 53.3, "Give ear, Oh ye people of the earth. Hear The Warning today. I speak The Words and Will of The Lord. Let all have Faith. Turn to The Lord and obey His Commands. Heed repentance and baptism that The Way of The Lord shall be among men. His Kingdom shall fill the whole earth. The hands must be laid upon all that **THE GREATER LIGHT** might come to them."

Message 53.10, "Yea, I have brought a Warning and few prepare for **THE GREATER LIGHT**, but be thou Faithful even all who hear, for The Lord's Will shall be fulfilled in all things. All have their work to do and the day comes when The Lord shall breathe upon The Chosen and they shall do His Work in Mighty Power for their love toward the brethren. All that offend and that do not keep His Commandments shall not be His in the Last Day. Moreover, it is Christ's Words that shall judge all men."

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It is the agreement of *The Quorum of Twelve of this Church*, that no Minister is to Ordain any man into *The Ministry* until said candidate has with all his heart and soul confessed he agrees with everything written in *The Articles of Faith and Practice*.

It is each Elder's duty to Seek Guidance from and to keep The Territorial Apostle informed of his works in the region he is laboring.

Secretary For The Twelve

FOREWORD

THE GREATER LIGHT, the official publication of *The Church of Christ With The Elijah Message, The Assured Way of The Lord, Inc.*, comes to YOU as an expression of a united people, whose only aim is to promote *The Cause of Christ* by spreading abroad to every nation, tongue and people, *The True Gospel of Christ* that through Obedience to His Laws we might be found worthy of *Eternal Life*.

In this publication, *The Record of The Nephites* is quoted many times. This Book was Revealed and Translated by *The Gift and Power of God*: the year 1829 marked the beginning of *The Restoration of all things*. It is history of the people who once lived in the region around *The Great Lakes*, some of whom are Ancestors of The Native Americans. Though it contains a Record of two other groups of people who once lived here, it is for the most part a Record of The People of Nephi.

The Messages so often mentioned in this publication are Messages from The Lord, brought to earth by His Chosen Servant, John

The Baptist, who comes to earth in a Glorified Body to finish The Work given to him of God; that of Restoring all things (Matthew 17: 11-13). The Angel first came in 1829, and Restored *The Authority of the Son of God*, that *The Church of Christ* might be Established as in The Days of The Apostles.

In 1927, The Angel Messenger again appeared, and on numerous subsequent visits, has brought to us *The Word of The Lord* that *The Church of Christ* might be set in Order, that a people might be Prepared to be *The Bride of Christ*. This is *The Elijah Message* so many have looked for, *The Midnight Cry* has been Proclaimed, *A Warning of Destruction*, but to *The People of The Lord*, a Message that Christ's soon Coming is near at hand. Fear God and give *Glory to His Name*, for *The Hour of His Judgement* has come. Awake those that sleepest and Arise from the dead, and Christ will give you *Light*.

We hope that whosoever reads these pages might make it a matter of Prayer and Fasting in Humility before God, that they may know for themselves, that God has again Spoken and Revealed *His Will* from Heaven. To this end, we Dedicate *The Greater Light*.

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Thank you.

THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST TODAY

To All People

FORTY-EIGHTH MESSAGE

The Church of Christ General Assembly of June, 1940, the Messenger of the Lord appeared to me June 17, at 2:30 a.m., in my room at 806 West Lexington Avenue, Independence, Missouri, and gave me the following Message. He spoke as one having authority. The Heavenly light accompanied him and remained for some time after he left.

-W.A. Draves

1. "Awake and take the Message I will give you.

2. I have come as the Lord as appointed. I have given the Word and it must be obeyed. Again I give words of encouragement and comfort for the children of men, and The Church of Christ. The Spirit of Peace will come to all that will obey and do the Lord's Will.

3. By His Spirit He has felt after the honest and those that hear the servants the Lord has chosen will hear Him.

4. Thus saith the Lord, 'I have heard the prayer of My children, many of whom are truly humble before Me. Blessed art thou, for I shall reward thee as your faith, is, and that to your joy and peace. The hearts of the righteous shall be filled and their bosoms shall overflow with gladness.

5. Thus, I have assembled you here, and in the hour of your humility and solemnity, I have met with you. Yea, the evil powers that seek to destroy shall not have place among you. I have sent My Messenger that peace may be restored and all My Design of Redemption may be fulfilled. In the anguish and distress of your souls I have

heard your cry. Therefore, let those that I have chosen be in their fields of labor that the people may be warned, that they will not have an excuse at the last day.

6. This is a day when much must be done that the Ways and Means of real Zion shall be brought about. Let those that hinder be removed from their responsibility for in their doubts their minds have become darkened and they fear because I your Lord have called others. None shall take part in that which is Holy until they have humbly prepared.

7. Verily I have felt after the hearts of men and I plead that they will hear when I call. Seek good and hate evil, and establish justice in the gate, for I have said I will be gracious, even unto Israel. Moreover, I shall deliver Joseph. I will deliver them from their bondage and gather the outcasts. And true Israel shall come rejoicing for I prepare a Way of Deliverance.'

8. Thus saith your Lord, 'Those that have robbed the widow and the fatherless have robbed Me, and many suffer in darkness, not knowing My Will, because there are those that shorten their hand, not rendering that which I require of them.

9. Oh, the days of judgments are upon you and I have sent among you the plagues and pestilences, the sword; and I have taken your horses, and the stink of the fields has become unpleasant, yet how slothful and disobedient My Israel is to learn of Me. Return unto Me, O ye of My ancient people, for I design to bring you out in gladness and rejoicing. Deliverance will come them that call upon Me. Seek the Lord and ye shall live.

10. Yet one, it is a little while, and the great shaking of nations and their desire for greed and spoil will be ripe and come to an end.

11. Behold! I have sent My Spirit among you and opened the gate, even designing your deliverance and a Way of

Preparation. To the humble, the upright and just, My faithful, I shall give unto thee the greater Light and Power to carry on, for by My Spirit I shall use you to My Name's Honor and Glory. I shall deliver My people Israel from whence the evil one has bound them, and those that stretch forth their hands towards My Holy place of peace shall find deliverance. For in Mount Zion and Jerusalem there shall be deliverance. I will give compassion and hear your supplications. Oh ye My people, Mine inheritance, hear ye My Words.

12. I have chosen ye My servants this day and My eyes shall be open toward you and I will hear your prayers before My children. I will hearken in all that you call for unto Me. I will make known to all the earth that I am God, and there is none else,' saith the Lord.

13. I am the Messenger sent from the Lord and I come to do His Will. My name is John. I am the forerunner of Christ, I shall prepare the Way. I shall bring the Word, that a people may know the Lord has spoken. His former Signet shall be upon one today, and he will cause that desire to come that the House of God, The Temple of the Lord, may be built for it shall be done. Therefore, let your hearts be perfect with the Lord your God, walking in His Statutes, and keeping His Commandments which He speaks as at this day.

14. The evil one shall not destroy the elect— but be very humble that you be not led into despair. The Lord will manifest Himself in Marvelous Ways. The wicked destroy themselves, and the just live by faith.

15. Be ye comforted one and all. Let not your hearts be troubled. The Lord is mindful and He knoweth the desires of each heart. He will bless you and cause that you may have great joy, all ye that obey His Will, for in Him is salvation.

16. He hears the prayers of His children and will answer to your gladness. Therefore, I come that the Plan of God shall be complete and the words the prophets of old have spoken of this day may all be fulfilled, for they spoke unto my coming. I speak the Words and Will of the Lord and I shall direct in this Work. The Signet One shall rise up and disperse confusion and cause to be brought together many that will obey the Will of the Lord, and that a people will be raised up to build The Temple of the Lord.

17. Worry not about those things over which you have no control, but tell the truth in humility. Fear not what men will say of you. Be very humble and the Lord will reveal to all them that seek Him in faith and will heed His Will.

18. Those that do evil and disobey and those that hear not will destroy themselves.

19. The Lord will turn and bless His little ones, the Colored and the Indians, for many shall come forth and be made white even as the whiteness of saints. For they shall be made pure, as the Lord had promised to make clean a people, and all must be made clean and pure and Holy in His sight.

20. The earth will tremble and men's hearts will fear because of the many changes that will take place. The saints shall be tried and made pure.

21. Let all be at work that the warning may go. Let those prepare to take the fields as I have told you, for soon the Gospel Message will be taken to other nations. The Temple must be built.

22. Send the Message to the world. The Lord has given the vision and it must be sent to all, that they may know what is coming to pass.

23. Let Arthur Roberts and Marion C. Vowels be set apart as elders. Let the Lord's servant, Roberts, come into this Work and from there he will carry the Message to others. Soon the Message will be preached

in Australia and New Zealand. Prepare to send the authority there, that they may hear of this Message of Life.

24. It is the will of the Lord that you take your place in the quorum of twelve; there are those that will not be sustained. There are those the Lord has called that will not accept at this time. Be at peace. The Lord pleads, and pleads; come all ye that will for the Lord will bless you.

25. I have spoken the Lord's Will. I am your fellow-servant. I am sent of the Lord. My name is John.

26. I will come again as the Lord will direct. Amen."

The Messenger left at 4 am. I was sitting up in bed as I wrote. He sat on the bed near my feet. He watched the paper as I wrote for word as he gave the Message.

2021 General Assembly

Handmaidens of the Lord

We held Handmaidens of The Lord meetings on Monday and Tuesday mornings of the Assembly. We were blessed with wonderful lessons; 'Trust and Hope' by Sister Karen Wilkin on Monday, and 'Faith over Fear' by Sister Tammy Thompson on Tuesday.

Love and may God bless each of you.
-Sister Thresa Ray

Trust & Hope: Part 2

Karen Wilkin

We know that we can obtain Hope, Faith and Trust together, in unity and love for one another. See, Hope never disappoints us, deludes us, it won't mislead us, it won't deceive us or leave us wondering in the darkness alone. Hope takes the light

from under the bushel and gives us the light we need to be able to rise above the adversities we are being challenged with. Hope fills our souls with great anticipation and great expectation! Because as long as we have hope, we can grow in the spirit and put our trust in the Lord with all our hearts and acknowledge it is for a purpose, we just don't understand that purpose, but we know we can have victory because God will see us through. It is up to us though to measure up and to develop our own Faith and Hope each and every day. Read Isa 55:8-11. Remember while we are there trying to exercise our Faith, Trust and Hope, satan is right behind you trying to make you stumble, get off the old path and lead you into temptation. He wants you to fail. He wants you to feel defeated. So we can't let our minds wander when these trials hit because ole satan will try to make you think the circumstances in your trial is your fault, you deserve this, he will try to trick you into reverse instead of relying on God's Word to get you over the hump. We gain control by Reading the Word of God and deep humble prayer. The more we study God's word, the less power satan can over our hearts and minds. We learn how to fill that void, that need, that trial, burden and heartache with peace, joy, a positive outlook and a deeper sense of security because we know that Because He lives, We can face Tomorrow!!! See satan wants to lead you astray but God wants to lead you into victory and help us overcome whatever it is holding us back.

Faith, Hope and Trust are our anchors. They will keep us strong and solid during the Storm and keep us from going overboard. If we are fastened to that rock that cannot move, then we are grounded firm and deep in the Saviors love. It is my Hope we can ride out these storms together and stay anchored, firm and devout in our beliefs, our unity and our goals to endure to the end.

Psalm 18:2, “**The Lord is my ROCK, and my FORTRESS, and my DELIVERER; my God, my Strength, in whom I will TRUST; my Buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my HIGH TOWER. Amen.**”

Faith Over Fear

Tammy Thompson

Psalm 27:1, “The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?”

I wanted to do a lesson on faith over fear, not only because it's a big part of the Assembly this year, but that it affects everyone, young and old. The world we are living in right now has never been scarier or as evil. As Christian women, sisters, mothers and grandmothers, we have similar fears for our families, for our homes, our finances, our church family, our church in general, our country, and fears for our world. We all have fears. The problem isn't that we have the fears, it's what we do with the fear that matters. We must learn to give our fears and worries to our Savior, to lay them at His feet. God tells us He's in charge.

1 Nephi 7:12, “Yea, and how is it that ye have forgotten, that the Lord is able to do all things according to his will, for the Children of men, if it so be that they exercise faith in him; wherefore, let us be faithful in him.”

Deuteronomy 31:8, “And the Lord, he it is that doth go before thee, he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee, fear not neither be dismayed.”

Psalm 118:6, “The Lord is on my side, I will not fear: what can man do unto me?”

Even though fear and faith can share the same heartbeat, they don't share the same perspective. Fear focuses on the dark,

the what ifs, while faith focuses on the Light (our Savior). Psalm 46:11, “The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.”

Psalm 23:4, “Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”

Have you ever let your own fears become all consuming? I know I have allowed fear to overtake my thoughts and days. I know some people who seem to weather fear well and stride gracefully through the storms of life unfazed. This is what I want to do. I want my faith to guide me the same way. But as humans, we sometimes fall short. We often fear the unknown and the what ifs of this life. We allow the devil to slip in and cause us to fear things we can't change. We forget for a moment that God can have it all taken care of. If we give our fear and worries to him, lay them at his feet, he will carry it for us. In the storms He is the light we need to focus on.

Isaiah 41:10, “Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee, yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of righteousness.”

Hebrews 13:6, “So that we may boldly say, **THE LORD IS MY HELPER AND I WILL NOT FEAR WHAT MAN SHALL DO UNTO ME.**”

When fear takes over as we walk through our trials and valleys, we often can only see the darkness. Faith is what helps us see the Light of Jesus, which gives us comfort and peace to confidently walk through our trials and fears. This is why we need to walk a closer walk with Jesus. We need to know his spirit and move in it, trust in it. We need to turn to our Savior first thing, before the fear takes over and then the devil can slip in. Much Prayer and study of the word is what strengthens our

faith and trust in our Savior.

God is in control, even as the earth seems to unravel around us. When we are tempted to fear things we don't understand, faith keeps us from coming completely unglued. A good relationship with God is a powerful weapon against fear. Things we wouldn't tell a soul on this earth, we can freely bring to our Lord. He hears us and wants good for us, he answers our prayers, he calms our fears. He is always beside us. If at times in our life we feel alone, away from Jesus, it's not because Jesus left us, but because we aren't as close to him as we should be.

We all know how to get closer to our Father, with prayer and studying of the precious Word. It is good to come together with your brothers and sisters to study together and learn of God's plan. It's a blessing to rejoice, worship, and pray together. God wants us to meet together to do these things. But it's your personal relationship with Jesus that will sustain you in the storms. God will calm all our fears if you allow him to be first and foremost in your daily walk in life. Put Him above everything and know he is in charge and then all your fears can be put to rest. Lean on the Lord, give him your trust, hold on to Him and have faith in him. If we aren't willing to do the work it takes to develop a good relationship with Jesus, we will get caught in fears, undertows and be swept away in our fears and worries.

2 Timothy 1:7, "For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power and of love, and of a sound mind."

Matthew 6:34, "Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

Isaiah 12:2, "Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song: he also is become my Salvation."

God always has and always will manifest his power through faith. He and his plans are unchangeable, his decrees unalterable. We have to leave our fears with Him and trust and have faith in His plan for our lives and our families lives. As God used faith to perform his work. So does he require us to use that same power. God chose faith as one of the first principles of His doctrine....

Hebrews 6:1, "Therefore, leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of FAITH toward God."

Is there any room for fear if we remember:

Message 3:9, "Go in faith, your mission is one of Love. Remember, I have called you to be Saviors of Men. Be true to your calling and my spirit will direct you and I will manifest Myself to you and will send My Messengers in time of need. My spirit shall fill your souls with Joy. The way will be opened for you. Amen.. " He promises to be with us, if we are true to what God requires of us.

God tells us not to fear or worry because our days could be shortened.

Message 11:3, "Go and take this message that I have given you, for it is God's message to the children of men; a warning as in the days of Noah, for remember trying times are and will be upon the earth, men's hearts failing them for fear because of the things that are and will be upon the earth. Save your strength, be wise, lest your end shall come before time."

Message 79:23, " '...Let all who come to this great Light come in by the door and lift their faith in Me,' saith the Lord, 'for I will be with you all the way.' " So even in these dark, scary, days of evil all around us and the United States seems on an evil path, we must remember that it is written that this all would come to pass, that we are

living in the end times and that we must not fear the evils but be prepared for it, and trust in God and know his plan is at work. God will not leave us, he is always with us all the way!

2 Nephi 31:19, “And now, my beloved brethren, after that ye have gotten into this straight and narrow path, I would ask, If all is done? Behold, I say unto you, Nay; for ye have not come thus far, save it were by the word of Christ with unshaken faith in Him, relying wholly upon the merits of him who is mighty to save;”

So Jesus wants our faith unshaken. Are we there yet when it comes to our fears? Can we rise every day rejoicing and lay our fears, troubles, and worries down at Jesus' feet? This is where we must strive to have a relationship so close to God where as soon as a fear pops up we don't fret, we just give it to him instantly. In being faithful to this he will calm our fears and answer our prayers because we stepped out in faith. I know this is where I am slacking, I know I have caused myself many more trials and heartache than I would have if I would have trusted in the Lord and given my fears and troubles to him. Sometimes giving them to him and then just taking them back, Not trusting that he would take care of them. I work on this daily. It really is a daily struggle for me.

Moroni 7:33, “And Christ hath said, If ye have faith in me, ye shall have power to do whatsoever thing is expedient in me.”

John 14:27, “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you, not as the world giveth, give I unto you, let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

Psalms 34:4, “I sought the Lord and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.”

My prayer is that we can go from the Assembly stronger and up lifted in our faith! I pray we all can lay our fears and worries at Jesus' feet and not pick them up

again. Let us continue to pray for each other and over ministry, and our church families all over the World. Remember to pray for God's safety to be with us all and that we may be kinder and more loving to our families and friends and to all we meet. Pray that we may help in the spreading of God's precious peculiar work. Remember to pray mightily to the Lord concerning the work and that we are always in God's will. Pray for the return of our fellow servant John the Baptist. I hope you each strive for a closer walk with our Lord. I know that is my desire. I pray we put faith over our fears everyday!

Isaiah 43:1-2, “But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not, for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.

2. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee; when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee,”

God bless you and keep you until we meet again! I love each one of you deeply!

Your sister in Christ,
Tammy Thompson

Articles

The Kingdom of God, Part 1

The following study is an excerpt from the *Light at Evening Time: The Gospel Restored* by Maggie Macgregor, pages 10-14.

Set Up by Christ

A long time ago a certain Prince of royal blood, viewing the calamities which had visited the people who ought to have been his subjects, came down and ministered unto them.

Terrible was their condition. Unnumbered throngs had passed away engulfed by famine, pestilence, and quake. Fratricidal wars had overturned empires and peoples. It was a slaughter world-wide and world-long.

All this happened because the people were badly governed. They were led by ambitious and unscrupulous kings who sought only to enlarge their domains at the expense of others.

They gave no thought to the welfare of their subjects. They lived only to enrich themselves.

This heaven-sent Prince went amongst the people ministering to their needs. He healed their sick and raised their dead.

His was a mandate of Peace and a rule of Love. In word and deed, he exemplified that immortal truth, "He who would become the greatest among you must become the servant of all." It was a mission of service.

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, and to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach acceptable year of the Lord." - Luke 4:18-19.

This was not all that goodly Prince performed. He organized his church. This is known in the Holy Scriptures as the Kingdom of God.

Now this kingdom was organized that his rule might be continued. And the continuation of his rule would mean the perpetuation of those rare gifts and blessings amongst his subjects.

Thus did the Lord purpose great things for his people. He planned their protection from present evils and their salvation for all time to come.

The Kingdom of God, or the kingdom of heaven, in its broadest sense embraces

the work of salvation among men. Therefore, wherever there is a servant of God, authorized to administer the ordinances and sacraments of the gospel and unto whom God reveals himself, there the kingdom of heaven exists.

The kingdom of heaven was here during the ministry of John the Baptist, though The Church of Christ was not organized until some time later. John, as a prophet of God, was in communion with the Father, and as "a man sent from God" he had the authority to baptize people into the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus said, "From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence." It could not suffer violence if it were not here. But our Lord said later: "I will build my church," and he built it of those "lively stones" in his kingdom who had been baptized by John and other authorized men whom he had called and ordained. Hence forward the kingdom of heaven and The Church of Christ were one and the same in New Testament story.

The Church of Christ A Real Organization

The Church, which Christ set up was a real and visible organization.

It partook of material form. It has a real ruler in the person of the Lord Jesus. It had real subjects- even all those who cared to become citizens by submitting to the rites of initiation.

It has a real code of laws known as the gospel of Jesus Christ. And it had real officers to proclaim and execute those laws, even the ministry of the Lord Jesus.

The following texts will certify as to the reality of the organization our Savior established:

"I will build my church." - Matthew 16:18.

"Ye are the temple of God." - 1 Corin-

thians 3:9.

In whom all the building fitly framed together, groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together."- Ephesians 2:21-22.

"Him (Christ) to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body."- Ephesians 1:22-23.

"Now ye are the body of Christ and members in particular."- 1 Corinthians 12:27.

"From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted."- Ephesians 4:16.

In the foregoing it is noted that the kingdom as proclaimed by Jesus Christ is known by several names. The most common of which is, the church, which, as Webster says, is "The collective body of Christians."

The Church of Christ, or collective body of Christians, is indeed, the kingdom of God or kingdom of heaven, as the following texts will signify: Matthew 13:41, 47, 48; 25:1, 2; Luke 17:20, 21; Matthew 12:28; 21:43; 23:13; Luke 16:16; 10:9-11; Matthew 13:24-30; Mark 1:15.

There are some who think the kingdom of God exists only in the heart, hence is but an imaginary organization. They invariably appeal to Luke 17:21: "The Kingdom of God is within you."

A very casual reading of the context, however, reveals the fact that our Lord was addressing a race of proud patriots who were living in daily anticipation of the setting up of the throne of David, with his seed reigning thereon forever and over all. Questioned by these people as to when this kingdom should appear, Jesus informed them that it was even then in existence, within the borders of Jewish domains, "within you."

This interpretation I borne out in the marginal reading where it says "or among you."

It will not do to argue that "within you" should be narrowed down to the limited compass of the heart, else that would be charging those Jewish Pharisees with a possession of a celestial treasure which their life and conduct did not merit nor disclose.

"But wore unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in."- Matthew 23:13.

In the generally accepted understanding of the term kingdom, it signifies an organization of five elementary features: 1. A king. 2. The subjects of that king. 3. The dominion in which they reside. 4. The laws and enactments by which those subjects are governed. 5. Duly authorize officers to administer the laws.

And all these features are found in the kingdom of God. 1. Christ is the King. 2. His people, called to be saints, are the subjects. 3. Their present transitory state will be succeeded by a rest in paradise, followed by the resurrection of the just. After this will be brought to pass the coming of the Lord Jesus with all his saints and their reign upon the earth for a thousand years.¹ 4. The gospel and its ordinances constitute the laws of the kingdom. 5. The ministry of Christ administering the ordinances of the church are the officers of the kingdom.

The Only Place of Safety

The kingdoms of this world proffer certain advantages, political, social, and educational. But all their benefits are confined to this present life.

The kingdom of God is mightier than these. Its dominion not only comprehends the things present, but it extends into the life to come. It saves unto the uttermost.

Earthly kingdoms may impart physical protection against the ravages of wicked men, but they can never protect against the evils of the Wicked One.

They may save a man's earthly inheritance from marauding bands, but they can never save the soul.

They may frustrate the ravages of epidemics and disease, but they are powerless to prevent them. The kingdom of God, as an antidote to all evil, will not only heal the

sick, but will eventually raise the dead.

And thus it is that the kingdom of God is a saving institution: "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."- Acts 2:47.

It was for the salvation of the church that Christ "gave himself for it." He is "the Head of the church which is his body" and will surely be "the Savior for the body."²

It behooves all, therefore, who desire to avail themselves of that salvation, to identify themselves with his church.

¹John 14:2,3; Revelation 5:9, 10; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; Matthew 5:5; Psalm 37:9-11, 18, 22, 34; Daniel 7:18, 27; 2:44; Revelation 11:15; 21:1-5; 20:1-5.

²Ephesians 1:22, 23; 4:15; Colossians 1:18

Young Adults

Karen Wilkin

Have you wondered where in the scriptures it tells you directly about what God considers sin to be? You hear it all the time about walking in the right path, not yielding to temptation, living righteously before Christ. I am going to give you what God considers to be sin straight from the Bible.

Galatians 5:16, "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh." This verse tells us how we can resist the lust of the flesh. Basically it is saying, the closer you are to Christ, are knowledgeable of His Word and walking in the paths that lead you into truth, then you are Walking in the Spirit.

Verse 17 says, "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh..."

19. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

20. Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

21. Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you

before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things SHALL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD."

If you are not familiar with a word, or you don't understand what the meaning of the word is, take time to look it up in the dictionary.

Every single day you face challenges from other students. When children have not been taught right from wrong they don't understand how to talk like a Christian or act like one. God gives us attributes and the Word to teach us what is proper, good and true. If we break the Ten Commandments or give in to the lusts of the flesh as identified in these verses then we are not walking in the Light of God.

Ephesians 6:11-12, "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

Without putting on the full armour each day, the Lord is telling us we are more susceptible to the wiles of the devil. He wants to tempt you and lead you astray. He knows how to make temptation look very attractive and fun, to cloud your mind with what is really sin and what is true. Satan knows exactly how to entice people to sin by convincing them it really isn't a sin. That all started the time he tempted Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit and do the one thing God told them not to do. She couldn't see why not as satan whispered in her ear, go ahead, eat, it won't do anything to you. Then once she gave in to his temptation, she convinced Adam to do the same. (Gen ch 3) See, if satan can lead two people into temptation who had this direct communication with God, then what is he able to do to all of us? Satan is very cunning and deceptive. If you are not walking close to the Lord then it opens up doors in our lives for him to come through that door

and tempt you, convince you and lead you into sinning. He wants to sear your conscience so you won't feel shame or guilt in sin he enticed you to do.

Ephesians 6:18, "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;"

It takes much prayer and strong will power to say NO when you are tempted to sin. This is why we are instructed to Put on the Whole Armour of God, to protect us from those fiery darts that are thrown at us daily and to be able to resist the wiles of the devil. You must build your house upon the solid rock to be able to withstand the storms of life. If your house is not built on that solid rock, then when temptations come your way, it will be as if it were built on sinking sand and will crumble and fall.

We have gone over Galatians 5:19-21, now I want to go on to Galatians 5:22-26. These attributes are the opposite of the lusts of the flesh verses 19-21 talks about.

22. **"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,**

23. **Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.**

24. **And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.**

25. **If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.**

26. **Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another."**

We have been given options to follow. God does not force us to do anything but rather encourages through His Word to follow Him and come all the way. The more you are familiar with the Word of God out of all three books, the more you will be able to recognize what sin is and how to avoid it, refrain from it and run from it. These books also teach you how to resist the temptations that are put before you, lead, guide and direct you and help to keep you on the right path,

the straight and narrow path that leads you into all truth and a closer relationship with Christ. That's why it is so important for you to know what the Word says so you can defend and uphold the truth when faced with those challenges.

Message 102:11, "Knowledge cometh from study of the Books and Grace from much prayer, Salvation by obedience, Deliverance by endurance."

As you face diverse challenges throughout the new school year, just remember you have a Heavenly Father who loves you, cares for you and you can always look to Him for help, comfort and know of assurity that He will always be there for you! Give Him time each day in prayer and studying God's word. Try to be a beacon in the time of great turmoil and uncertainty in this world. Be the kid who helps someone who really needs help. Be the kid who sees someone sitting alone and goes over to sit with him/her. Be the kid that defends someone who is being bullied. Be the kid who is kind to the less fortunate and those who can't make friends easily. It is in doing these things that you are truly touching the hems of Jesus's garment.

Junior

Thresa Ray

Dear Youth,

I am going to share a story taken from the book, *Foot-Prints in the Sands of Time*, page 139.

Story of the Record of the Nephites

How many of you know what the Nephite Record is? Several months ago, Sister Paschall told you about some people who were led to this continent from Jerusalem. These people lived at a time when the Lord's people at Jerusalem had become wicked and would not follow the Lord's prophets. Lehi was a prophet and the Lord told him that because of the people's wickedness the city Jerusalem would be destroyed. He told Lehi to

take the family and flee away and He would lead them to a land that was much better. Lehi had faith in God and obeyed. He had four sons at the time, Laman, Lemuel, Nephi and Sam. He also had daughters. The Lord told him to take another man and his family with him.

Nephi was a very good, obedient boy and the Lord showed him many things. Lehi and Nephi both had many dreams and visions from God and angels visited them. But Laman and Lemuel were wicked and did not want to obey the Lord. They wanted to kill their brother Nephi.

The Lord showed Nephi how to build a ship and to bring them to this country for they had to travel the ocean. They brought seeds of all kinds with them so they would be able to grow food to eat. After they came to America they began to till the soil and make their living in that way. Two more boys were born to their parents after they left Jerusalem, and their names were Sam and Joseph. They were good boys.

A short time after they arrived in the new land, Laman and Lemuel became so wicked that the Lord told Nephi to take those who were good and separate themselves from them and the Lord placed a curse of dark skin upon those who followed Laman and Lemuel.

But I haven't told you what the Nephite Record is, have I? Well, those who followed Nephi were called Nephites, and they kept a record upon the plates made of gold. The record told of the things that they did and how the Lord led them. It tells their history from the time they left Jerusalem, which was about 600 B.C. down until about 421 years A.D. The record was handed down from one man to another to write upon it. They did not write upon paper like we do but their writing was carved upon these plates of gold that the Lord told Nephi to make. The last man to keep this record was Moroni and it is believed he hid the record in the ground. In recent years it was found and has been translated into our language and from it we learn

the story of the ancestors of what are now known as the American Indians. But the people at that time were called Nephites and Lamanites, named for the men who led them.

I really love the book, "The Record of the Nephites". It is very interesting and full of spiritual food for us. If you haven't read it, I hope you will do so. Once you get into it, you won't want to stop reading!

Following are some scriptures about what God has said through His Messenger, John the Baptist, about "The Holy Bible," "The Record of the Nephites," and "The Word of the Lord, Brought to mankind by an Angel."

Message 81:24, "Heed my Message for this is my mission. The Doctrine is given, and is set forth in the Bible, The Record of the Nephites and The Word of the Lord, the words I bring."

Message 86:60. "In the Bible and Record of the Nephites contains the teachings and pattern of the Fulness of the Gospel in its plain and precious parts. But my words and authority gives the right to set the Church in order – The Church of Christ with the Holy Priesthood Authority and Power to act in the establishing the Kingdom of God on earth and bringing in the Zion of the Lord. The Kingdom and Dominion shall be for the saints of the Most High."

Message 116:9, "Faith, repentance, the baptisms, teaching Jesus Christ and His atoning blood in redemption that salvation will come to all that hear and obey the full plan as taught in the Bible, 'The Record of the Nephites,' and 'The Word of the Lord' the words I bring as the Angel of God. I am His Messenger, a resurrected being. I am John the Baptist. I am the Elias."

Message 81:20, "Let the words I bring be the Rule and Guide with The Articles of Faith and Practice, for upon all the Lord's Words, Will and Planning shall this Work be built."

Message 102:7, "Shape your lives and works by the words I bring, have brought and will yet bring."

Message 102:18, “Prove all things by the Words of Truth in the ‘Bible,’ ‘Record of the Nephites’ and ‘The Word of the Lord.’ All this is established for mankind, the guidelines of Hope and Deliverance. Man’s idealisms shall come to naught.”

Message 102:52, “I speak that all Christendom may flow together and abide by the ‘Bible’ revealing great Truths; the coming forth of ‘The Record of the Nephites,’ the book, and ‘The Word of the Lord:’ Behold the Books that will lead all mankind to Eternal Hope and Salvation, Deliverance in the Lord.”

2 Timothy 2:15, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God”

It is very important for us to study God’s words – all three books, to know them and to put God’s words in our hearts and minds. We are so blessed to have all three books to direct us, to have the ‘fullness of the Gospel’ and to have the words that God’s angel, John the Baptist brought in this day and time to direct the Church and all mankind. We are so very blessed. We must not take these books for granted. Read and study daily! As you do study daily, you will feel closer to God, you will have an inner peace and increase your faith. You will put on God’s armor, knowing the scriptures and will be able to withstand temptations of satan.

Message 9:1, “...There are those who read the Words of the Lord and the prophets and have faith therein. Upon these satan has no power....”

Message 7 & 8:11, “Let your faith be strong in the Lord your God. Read the eleventh chapter of Hebrews. Read it often....”

God wants us to read Hebrew chapter 11 often, because it tells about the faithful men and women that went before us and accomplished many things because of their faith. Learning all that these people accomplished will increase your faith also!

So take time daily to read all three books. Put God’s words in your heart and mind!

As you pray each day, count your blessings and be sure to thank God for all He has

given us, including our three books, ‘The Holy Bible,’ ‘The Record of the Nephites,’ and ‘The Word of the Lord Brought to Mankind by an Angel.’ We have such a wonderful, merciful God that loves each of us so very much! I thank God for each of you. May God’s protection and love be about you daily.

Primary

Joy Ellen Draves

We all know that Halloween can be a scary time. *But why is it so scary? Is it because it’s nothing to see a monster here and a goblin over there? Maybe, but is there really any reason to be scared? NO!*

God loves us and Protects us from the scary things in life! He Says we are Precious to Him and because of that, He will Protect us just like He Always has with His People.

Just look at Isaiah 43:1-5, “But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.

2. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

3. For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour...

4. Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.

5. Fear not: for I am with thee...”

See? God Tells us He will Protect us. He even Says that He will Be by our Side when we have to go through scary things. So next time you are scared, remember that you are not alone; God is With you. And he will protect you.