

First Light Herald

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Winter is when the earth rests and prepares for the new life of spring.**
- **God loves us!**
- **No really, He really loves us. He is love and He demonstrates His love.**
- **Every good and perfect gift comes from God. He is the Father of lights and we are those lights!**
- **We are fearfully and wonderfully made.**
- **If God be for us (and He is) who can be against us.**
- **Let's take this season and give and think about others more than we think about ourselves.**
- **It is really more blessed (powerful) to give than to receive. Think about your giving as "sowing" and remember you never plant a seed and get a seed!**

JEFF AND CERISE WELTER

LIVE BY FAITH OR LIVE BY WORKS

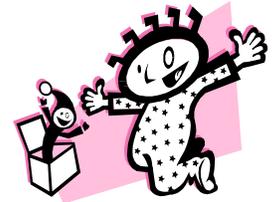
Often when I sit and prepare to write led of the Spirit I find myself feeling like an old 78 record album skipping, repeating the same thing over and over. It seems that the body of Christ is so eager to please God and can't quite believe that He "has" already been pleased, and that the body of Christ is entering back into living under the law of sin and death. At the rate of speed across the world that it is happening and the numbers of people in the body of Christ that are learning to become "Torah observant" most think it is a move of the Spirit of God. Nothing could be farther from the Truth and these brothers and sisters are being deceived by the spirit of anti-Christ. Do you remember how we can know what the spirit of anti-Christ is? It is anyone that denies that Jesus is the Christ and that he came in the flesh! Folks, the whole reason that we can be born again is because Jesus was the Christ and did come in the flesh. He died for an entire world of sinners, and God raised Him from the dead so that through Him (Jesus) we could be made the righteousness of God in Him.



John 1:17 The Law was given by Moses, but Grace and Truth came by Jesus the Christ.

The law stands alone in judgment and the law judges all things by that law; the law of sin and death. When a person desires to be judged by that law, by God, that person is deceived and will find out that his works are as filthy rags and can in no way be seen by God and will die in a curse without Jesus. It was Jesus that said, "You shall know the Truth and the Truth will make you free." Free from what? Free from living by the law, free from the law judging you. Jesus did all the work of keeping that law for us without failure, which is how God (according to His law) could accept Jesus as the perfect sacrifice for all mankind's sin. For 2000 years Israel lived under the curse of the law. They were not made free by keeping the law even if they could have. The harder men tried the more bondage there was.

LIVE BY.....CONTINUED



Romans 16:25-26 Now to him that is of power to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, but now is made manifest and by the scriptures of the Prophets, according to the commandment of God the everlasting made known to all nations for the obedience to the faith.

We have all heard about obeying the commandments, we all hear about living by the law. But, what is obedience to the faith? Faith is trusting, believing, so obedience to the faith or living by faith is believing in the grace and truth that came to us by Jesus Christ, and not living by the law. Galatians 3:12 The law is not of faith. Romans 1:5 Through Him (Jesus) we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name. God wants us to live our new born again lives trusting and believing Him, not living under the curse of the law by works. And we can't live both ways, either we live by faith free or we live under a curse by works of the law.

Romans 10:4 for Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that "Believes." For Moses describes the righteousness that is of the law, that every man that doeth those things must live by them. (The righteousness of the law is by doing)

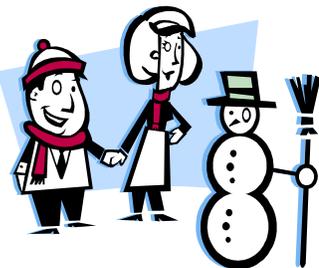
Romans 4:4-5 now to the person that works the law, the reward is NOT given of grace, but of debt. But to the person that works not, but believes on Him (Jesus) that justifies the ungodly, that person's faith is counted as righteousness.

ALL humans are ungodly until the individual (he or she) believes on Him (Jesus) who justifies the ungodly. Then they are made righteous in God's eyes. Our faith is based on the works of another, Jesus! Faith toward God.

The righteousness of the law is by doing works. The righteousness which is of faith simply believes and trusts that Jesus did all the works of the law for them and is justified because of that faith. If we enter back into the works of the law where is faith? The law is not of faith.

Romans 3:28 therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. Romans 4:13 the promise, that he should be made the heir of the world, was NOT made to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

The same promise is available to anyone who will "believe" whether Israelite or Gentile. Israelites that claim to be "OK" according to the works of the law are not living by faith and have not been made free because they have not received the Truth that makes them free. The same is true for a Gentile. The entire world has been separated from God by one man's disobedience, Adam. God gave the law so we could see what a sinful, ungodly condition we were in. No peace with God was offered for anyone through the works of the law. The law was never given to justify any flesh and never did justify any flesh. The law was given to show what sin is, and that sin was in the entire human race because of Adam whether Israelite or non-Israelite all were in sin and condemned, separated from God. And without God there is no peace.



Romans 5:1-2 therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

My brothers and sisters don't be deceived by these workers of iniquity led by the spirit of anti-Christ. Bless their darlin' hearts and stupid heads as one big brother

LIVE BY.....CONTINUED

used to say. These teachers may mean well but are themselves deceived beyond measure and are wolves in sheep's clothing. Placing the body of Christ into bondage in a place where there is no faith that can bring forth the promises of God. If the law was the way for people on earth to live for God, Jesus would not have had to come and die! Jesus is the one that said, "It is finished." All the works of the law that needed to be done was finished at the cross, don't add to it. It truly is a work in futility to no good end. The ungodly that have been justified shall live by faith and not by works. We are the righteousness of God in Christ because God made us that way, believe it!



Master what must we "do" to work the works of God? Believe only!

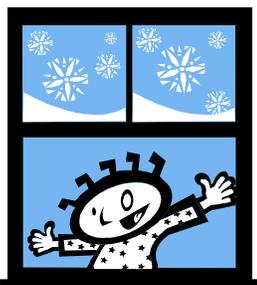
BEING IGNORANT OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

The final word in the Old Testament is "curse" and that is no mistake. The final words in the New Covenant are "the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ" GRACE and that is no mistake either. A lot of people study the bible and may have much of it memorized but to what end? Is there faith involved in the One they are reading and studying so diligently about? Without faith it is impossible to please God. There will be people at the Great White Throne trying to tell God how much they know "about" Him but to no avail. The Holy Spirit moves across the world convincing people of their need for the Truth (John 16:9) that Truth, believe on Jesus. People in general, no matter what nationality, no matter what religion, have knowledge of God but are ignorant of His plan of righteousness for them. They may know things like: the first chapter of every gospel holds focused information on certain things "about" Jesus;

- Matthew – The King of the Jews
- Mark – The divine servant, come to serve us
- Luke – The perfect man
- John – The word of God in human flesh

But did they find His salvation by faith or are they ever studying to achieve it? God's salvation is not a matter of the mind; no it is a matter of the Spirit by faith. Let's look into this a bit more.

In Luke 1:5 there was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias...the time came for Zacharias to burn incense to God. He would go into a place behind a curtain and all the people would stand outside praying. The priest burns the incense on the altar and the sweet smelling savor of the incense reminds God of His perfect beloved Son. When the smell of the incense goes up to God, God's blessing comes down for the people. But the priest must open his mouth with his arms out stretched and speak the blessing of God onto the people. After he does this, the people that came to receive the blessing go home with the blessing of God. But this time when Zacharias went in behind the curtain the angel Gabriel was there and told him that his prayer was heard and that he and his wife Elizabeth would bring forth a son and name him John (God's Grace). Zacharias questioned Gabriel not understanding and the angel of God told Zacharias that he would not be able to speak words until this word from God was fulfilled. (Nine months) The people that were waiting there a long time saw Zacharias come out with his arms down at his side and unable to speak the blessing from God. So they all went home without a blessing from God. Zacharias was unable to speak the blessing from God because he did not believe the message of God's



RIGHTEOUSNESS.....CONTINUED

grace.

Now most people know that John the Baptist is the son Zacharias was brought forth to prepare the way for the Messiah, the Christ. But do they believe that the Levitical priesthood of the law was coming to an end, and that there would be no more blessing from God through a priest until Jesus was crucified and resurrected?



Luke 24:50 Jesus led them out as far as Bethany (House of suffering) and He lifted up His hands and blessed them.

Jesus ascended to His Father as the High Priest, the final sweet smelling of burned incense and God received Him into the Most High, behind His curtain if you will. After that Jesus comes out to mankind-His disciples-and lifts His hands and speaks God's blessing on them. The beginning of a new priesthood on earth, no more need of a priest to go in and come out once a year, no Jesus was the final priest to go in and come out. In Christ all are blessed with all spiritual blessings from God. In Luke chapter 1 under the old priesthood all the people went home with great sadness in Luke chapter 24 the people returned home with great joy because they had been blessed.

In Luke 14 Jesus comes into our world,

He went into a house of one of the Pharisees to eat bread on the Sabbath day, and they watched Him. Behold a certain man with the dropsy was there with Him. Jesus asked the lawyers and Pharisees if it was lawful to heal on the Sabbath day. They held their peace and said nothing to Him so Jesus took the man with the dropsy and healed him and let him go. Jesus asked them, "Which of you having an ox or an ass fall into a pit, and will not straightway pull it out on the Sabbath day? They could not answer Him again. So Jesus spoke a parable to them when He noticed how they were dividing the folks that were invited to this Pharisees' house into chief rooms: He said to them; When you are invited to a wedding by any man, don't go sit down in the highest room; lest a more honorable man than you comes in; because the man that invited you and the more honorable man will come and ask you to get up and give your place to him, then you get up with shame to go to a lowest room. But when you are invited, go to the lowest room; that when he that invited you may come and say to you, friend go up higher: then you shall have honor in the presence of them that sit at dinner with you, because whosoever exalts himself shall be abased, and he that humbles himself will be exalted.

I could type the entire chapter 14 of Luke but you can read it when you have time. *When Jesus comes out of the Pharisees' house there is a great multitude there with Him. The multitude was looking to Him as an example and what Jesus is saying to them from verse 25 on is, if you look to me as an example of what to be like then you must give up everything including your life and follow me. But if you look to me as your Savior, I will save you just as you are.*

In Luke 15 Jesus takes us into His world,

Then all the tax collectors and sinners drew near to Jesus to hear Him. Finally He had found people that were aware of their sin and in need of a Savior and saw Him as that Savior. He tells three parables; The lost sheep, The lost coin, and The lost son, when Jesus is in His world He is the happiest telling people that God loves finding people and saving people that know they need saving. In Jesus' world all need saving but in our world some don't believe it so.



When we begin to see by the Holy Spirit's revealing power that all mankind is in need of

RIGHTEOUSNESS.....CONTINUED

His righteousness we can then walk in the love He had for the world. He did not come into our world to judge us we had already been judged. He did not come to condemn us we were already condemned. He did not come with laws of living right to please God, He came as Grace and Truth. He knew there was no Grace with the law so He being Truth came to make us free from that law. He who has been made free is free indeed! The Truth we “know” will make us free...that Truth is Jesus; it is not a bunch of words on a page. Jesus is alive and doing well at the right hand of our Father! And as He is so are we in this world!



In Luke 14 Jesus stepped into our sin sick unhappy world. In Luke 15 He brought all that would come into His Kingdom of happiness and joy.

The three parables;

1st parable, The Good Shepherd – Jesus---Righteousness

2nd parable, The Lost Silver Coin - Holy Spirit --- Joy

3rd parable, The Lost Son – Father God ---Peace

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Jesus came to minister to us not to be ministered to. So when He shows up in your life, don't try to give Him all your smarts. Let Him give to you, be ready to receive and take all that He has to give to you. (You know you need it) The Pharisees gave Him a show of sumptuous settings, but their hearts were not intimate with Him. Bread is for eating, not examining to study all the different aspects of it. Selah

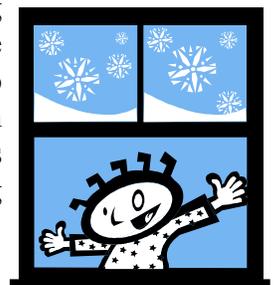
THE BLESSINGS OF THE LORD

Proverbs 10: 22 The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

The season of “giving” is upon us and with it comes the temptation to overdo. When God blesses us, with whatever He blesses us with, He never overdoes it. Take the time BEFORE you shop to stop and ask the Lord WHAT and HOW MUCH to buy. Let Him be the shopper. Then when you're done you won't feel completely condemned for overspending. Shopping for loved ones takes time and thought and we tend to rush when the atmosphere is filled with that “commercial” shove that the world puts out there.

“Retail Therapy” is nothing more than feeding the flesh and having endorphins rush into ones bloodstream. Being led of the Holy Spirit in your shopping is the most peace filled kind of shopping.

For those of you who have already over done it, ok so you blew it. There is therefore now NO condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. Get your fault off your chest, confess it now. Clear your slate. Run to the Father. Don't allow the accuser of the brethren to accuse you, condemn you or anything else. But while you go to God for that fresh slate, also ask Him for help to stop the cycle of over spending and fear of rejection. It is, after all, the fear of rejection that causes us to buy for every person we know. Generosity should be based upon what one has and not on what your credit card company says you can “afford”. None of us can afford sleepless nights because the creditors are hounding and hollering from the skyscrapers in the big city. Let's be generous with words of edification. Let us be free with love, joy, peace. Etc.



Jeff & Cerise Welter
 P. O. Box 662
 Gardendale, TX 79758
 432-550-7642



Jeff & Cerise's December 2009 Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sabbath
		1	2 Gardendale Meeting 7-9PM	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Gardendale Meeting 7-9PM	10	11 Hobbs Meeting 7-9PM	12 Roswell Meeting 2-4PM 
13 	14 	15 	16 Gardendale Meeting 7-9PM 	17 	18 	19 
20	21 	22	23 Gardendale Meeting 7-9PM	24 No Hobbs meeting	25 Way to go God!	26
27	28	29	30 Gardendale Meeting 7-9PM	31	Call for meeting locations. 432-550-7642	